



THE RYE & DISTRICT  
BONFIRE SOCIETY

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
at the Queen's Head, Landgate by kind permission.

**Members Present:** Francis Warren, Bob Booth, Rita Kirk, Ian Foster, James Foster, Patsy Hughes, Jackie Rowe, Sandra Warren, Paul Carey, Charlie Carey, Simon Bowler, Neale East, Willie Wicking, Dave Barnes, Malcolm Mayhew, Hannah Moon, Christine Chivers, Dave Lawton, Wayne Wadey, Jimper Sutton, Brian Gasson, Ruth Palmer, Joan Ridgers, Pete Ridgers and Margaret O'Neill, Irna Mortlock.

**1. Apologies for absence:**

Andy Tollett, Margaret Stoodley, Francis Rowe, Vanessa Smith, Enid Armstrong, Emma & Charlotte Moon, Brian Cutting, Marion Buss, Richard Todd, Kevin Mayhew, Denise & Charlie Saxby.

**2. Minutes:**

Copies of the Minutes of the AGM from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were circulated. They were agreed unanimously as a true record.

**Proposed** Paul Carey **Seconded** Simon Bowler

**Matters arising:**

Jimper made a special point of thanking members who made it possible for him to take the part of Rye Fawkes at the Rye Bonfire 2014. He said that it was a memorable experience and one of the most enjoyable days of his life.

**3. Report from the Chairman:**

Francis began by paying his respects to our long serving member Peter Read who passed away at the Conquest Hospital on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015 aged 82 years. He was one of our most dedicated members, a prestigious fund raiser for the Society who would be sadly missed by us all. Francis also paid our respects to Carol Hunnisett who passed away recently. Both Carol and her Husband John (Henry VIII) are members of Phoenix. They always take part in our parades whatever the weather with their family in outstanding Tudor costumes.

Francis requested all present to observe a minutes silence for Peter and Carol.

Francis went on to report another safe and successful Bonfire celebration. Francis thanked all those involved for their hard work and dedication including those involved in safety, bonfire build in very boggy conditions and the fund raising collection which was extremely good this year.

**4. Report from the Treasurer to read and accept the accounts for the year:**

Copies of the Profit and Loss account February 2014 through to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 year end were circulated. Ian reported another very good year which he believed was in no small part due to the team of fund raising ladies led by Ruth Palmer. Ian went through the accounts explaining the totals in detail.

The income total from fund raising, Gifts and Donations and street collection tins etc provided a gross profit of £19,807. The major amounts were as follow:

Boot Sale at Jempsons -£403, Auction of Promises - £4,336, Clay Pigeon Shoot -£1,094, Quiz Nights -£958, Raffle income £920, Street collections -£4,714, Programmes - advertising £2,716 and sales £584, Neale's sponsored cycle ride £231 and total gifts and donations of £1,286.

The expenditure total was £14,231. The major amounts were as follows:

Charitable donations - £2,250, Insurance £2,374, Pyrotechnic plant £180 and Pyrotechnics £4,488, Clay shoot equipment and expenses £465, Road closures £100, Safety £1,014, Torches £361, Fire site £157, Dragon Tableau £149 and effigy £156.

This left a profit for the year of £5,575.

Green Dragons Bank Balance amounted to £574.90

Net assets amounting to £17,684.79

Ian described this as a healthy position to be in enabling us to support more local charities.

There were no questions from the floor.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Simon to Ian for all his hard work which was supported by all members present.

## **5. To propose a vote of thanks to the Honorary Auditors:**

### **Messrs. Gibbons Mannington and Phipps**

Ian gave a vote of thanks to our auditors. He said that they did a very good job for us. They did this service for us free of charge and were happy to continue as our auditors.

<b>Proposed</b>	Paul Carey	<b>Seconded</b>	Ian Foster
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## **6. Election of Officers**

<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
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### **6a) Company Directors:**

Andy Tollett, Paul Carey and Francis Warren

agreed to stand again as Directors

Jimper Sutton	Neale East
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### **6b) Company Secretary:**

Ian Foster agreed to stand again

Francis Warren	Jimper Sutton
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**All the above voted in unanimously by the members present**

### **Society Officers:**

#### **6c) President**

Jimper Sutton was proposed

Paul Carey	Dave Barnes
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#### **6d) Vice Presidents**

Marion Buss

Rita Kirk	Simon Bowler
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Mr Ken Jessop

Ian Foster	Patsy Hughes
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Prince Rostislav Romanov

Neale East	Willie Wicking
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#### **6e) Chairman**

Francis Warren agreed to stand again

Jackie Rowe	Margaret O'Neill
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#### **6f) Vice Chairman**

Bob Booth agreed to stand again

Jackie Rowe	Francis Warren
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#### **6g) Secretary**

Rita Kirk stood down –position vacant

#### **6h) Treasurer**

Ian Foster agreed to stand again

Paul Carey	Simon Bowler
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#### **6i) Membership Secretary**

Nikki Lawton stood down

Neale East agreed to take up the post

(help offered from Nikkie Lawton if necessary)

Ian Foster	Ruth Palmer
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#### **6j) Out Meetings/Social Secretary**

James Foster agreed to take up the post

Francis Warren	Charlie Carey
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**All the above voted in unanimously by the members present**

**7. To elect an Honorary Auditor for the ensuing Year**

Messrs Gibbons Mannington & Phipps Paul Carey Ian Foster

Were elected once again

**The above voted in unanimously by the members present**

**8. To appoint departmental 'Captains' for the ensuing year**

**8a) Captain of Marshals and Safety co-coordinator**

Paul Carey agreed to stand again Charlie Carey Francis Warren

With the agreed assistance of Wayne Wade Rita Kirk Charlie Carey

**8b) Parade Captain**

Charlie Carey agreed to stand again Neale East Rita Kirk

**8c) Site Captain**

Simon Bowler agreed to stand again Willie Wicking Rita Kirk

**8d) Torch Captain**

Kevin Mayhew was elected in his absence Malcolm Mayhew Margaret O'Neill

**8e) Bonfire Captain**

Adrian Pettitt was elected in his absence Margaret O'Neill Bob Booth

**8f) Pyrotechnic Captain**

Neil Baker was elected in his absence Ian Foster Willie Wicking

**8g) Fund-Raising Captain**

Ruth Palmer was elected Patsy Hughes Ian Foster

Ruth agreed to stand and will delegate where possible to her team as she was relocating away from the area

**8h) Programme Captain**

Margaret O'Neill agreed to stand Sandra Warren Rita Kirk

Sandra Warren agreed to assist in collection of programme advertising

Ruth Palmer Rita Kirk

**8i) Effigy Captain**

Willie Wicking agreed to stand again Rita Kirk Simon Bowler

**8j) Firecart Captain**

Malcolm Mayhew agreed to stand again Patsy Hughes Dave Barnes

**8k) Collectors Captain**

Patsy Hughes agreed to stand again Rita Kirk Francis Warren

**8l) Captain of the Burning Boat**

Dave Lawton agreed to stand again Francis Warren Dave Barnes

**8m) Webmaster, Press and Publicity Captain**

Neale East agreed to stand again Rita Kirk Margaret O'Neill

Irna Mortlock agreed to assist Neale Rita Kirk Simon Bowler

**The above voted in unanimously by the members present**

**9. To Nominate and approve Honorary Memberships for the year 2015/2016**

Eileen Le Net and Claire Dyer

For their hard work on Bonfire Building day keeping everybody fed and watered

Mark Bridgeland

For his outstanding work with his vehicle in building the pallet bonfire

Helen Gray

For her untiring work in presenting our fund raising quizzes

Tony Heritage

For providing and driving his tractor and trailer to get all the pallets to the bonfire

Ray Palmer

For his continuing support and hard work in setting the questions for our Bonfire Quizzes

**Proposed Seconded**

Ian Foster Joan Ridgers

**The above voted in unanimously by the members present**

A vote of thanks was proposed to Ian Potter and Jonathan Breeds for allowing the Society the use of the meeting room of the Queen's Head free of charge and for all they do for us over the Bonfire weekend.

A vote of thanks was also proposed to Rita Kirk for her work over the past couple of years as Secretary

**10. Any Other Business**

Re-seeding the Salts

A working party headed up and arranged by Francis confirmed to start on re-seeding the Salts Bonfire Site as soon as the weather and site conditions permitted.

BONCO

Francis gave his report on the BONCO AGM held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at Lewes. Francis said that there were no real changes with no committee changes. However, a minutes silence was held for three members who had passed away.

Easter Monday Boot Fair – 6<sup>th</sup> April, Jempson's Pasmars

Patsy requested that a group of helpers would be needed for about 10.00am but as car space was at a premium, they should arrange to arrive in one car.

Bonfire T Shirt Logo

This was shown to and approved by those present. It was agreed that the logo should read RDBS with yellow flames coming from the burning boat. It was expected that the T Shirt would cost around £14 and it was requested that sizes should go up to XXXL

Membership Badges

Francis confirmed that membership badges were ordered for this year.

Wording for Dedication on new Community Transport Bus

Patsy circulated the wording for ratification which would appear on the new Bus to be dedicated to Jimper on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March outside the Rye Town Hall.

Torches

Richard Todd sent his apologies to the meeting but confirmed that he would be happy to continue working with the torch carts on Rye Bonfire night.

**There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.**

**The next Rye Bonfire Society Meeting would be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 8.00pm at the Queen's Head, Landgate.**

**Chairman..... Date.....**