

Notes from a Meeting of the Cromwell Probus (Luncheon) Club Steering Group on 13 Sep 22

1. The Meeting was opened at 1400 by Dave Mack (Admin) acting as protem for Peter Baker MBE who was ill with Chris Leah, Ros Townsend present and apologies from Peter Baker, Gordon Steptoe and Peter Horrocks.
2. Next Chair. Chris Leah was nominated by Dave Mack, seconded by Gordon Steptoe to be the Chair of the SG and the default Lunch Host from 18 Oct 2022 to and including lunch on 16 Mar 2023.
3. More Ladies. Suggested by Peter baker, it was decided for the Host to make mention that ladies are just as welcome to volunteer to become Lunch hosts and even Steering Group Members (as vacancies occur) as their male counterparts and are thus urged to make such wishes known to Dave Mack (Club Admin) for invitations to be made on a 'first come first served' basis for either role.
4. Change of Menu Format. Unless there are a significant number of objections from diners beforehand, Dave Mack suggested and Maria has agreed it can be done, the SG agreed, that a variation to the Menu Format – currently Main + Dessert – should alternate month about, from Jan 23, as Starter+Main then Main+ Dessert then Starter+ Main ad inf. There will not be a choice between having a starter or a dessert with a main.
5. Meal Tab Design & Management. With the (reduced) Bar Staff becoming overwhelmed as our meeting numbers increase, as well as some meal choice tabs being unreadable (Black on Purple) , Dave Mack explained that it was incumbent on us to offer our services to Maria to self-manage this aspect of our lunches. Maria has agreed, Dave Mack has procured and created 6 sets of readable tabs and will trial them on 22 Sep 22. Ros volunteered to take charge of that aspect. Dave Mack will meet with Maria nearer the date to ensure all aspects are understood and covered.
6. Name Tags. A number of embarrassing situations have occurred whereby, it's an age thing, some diners have for an instant forgotten the names of others with whom, previously, they have been on first name terms. Name tags/badges worn by the SG have helped in this respect and mention was made that it would be a good idea if people at a table knew the first name of the others to whom they may be talking AND that could be facilitated if everyone had their first name on display in some form or another. Dave Mack can obtain Pinned name tags for £3.50 and Magnetic ones for £5. Failing that the SG is open to suggestions from diners on how best to compensate for 'forgetfulness'. Please do send suggestions to Dave Mack.
7. Lunch Speakers. Having an 'in-house' nominal 5-min speaker at our lunches in our first year as a social group meeting for a meal has been an element of our way of getting to know something about those with whom we dine and in all cases it has not disappointed. Unbelievably, and despite only half a dozen stepping forward, it would appear that this resource has been exhausted as no one has come forward to volunteer to continue this most interesting aspect. This leaves the SG with a quandary on how to continue to provide some light-hearted and interesting 'entertainment' for the diners when we have no funds coming in to pay for any external speakers like we had in the old Club days of subscriptions. It was agreed that any diner could bring guests and pay for their lunch themselves (not the Club) and that those guests – as all diners - would be most welcome to speak for 5-10 mins on a topic of general interest to St Ives residents rather than national Groups/Charities/Fund-raisers and not involving any politics.
8. Annual 'How are we doing' Survey. Because there have been a number of issues raised for which the SG feels it would like guidance from diners before continuing/incorporating, it was agreed to send out an 'Annual Survey' to determine what it has done well, what it has done. Members of the SG will have a think, send suggestions to Admin by end of Sept, Admin will collate and create a draft for SG approval at its Oct meeting so it can be issued to diners as part of Admin's November Invite and the results analysed for the Nov SG in time for incorporating (as appropriate) by the Jan 2023 Lunch.

Dave Mack

Admin@CromwellProbusClub.org.uk