

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE STEERING GROUP OF THE CROMWELL PROBUS (LUNCHEON) CLUB ON 16 NOV 21

Present:

Roger Bruce (RB) (Chair)

Gordon Steptoe (GS)

Dave Mack (DM) PA + Notetaker

Apologies:

Peter Baker (Convalescing) – all wished him a speedy recovery and return to the fold.

Ros Townsend

MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS (OCT) MEETING

Christmas Lunch on 16 Dec 21.

RB reported that all was in hand and that there had been 33 expressions of interest to attend the lunch from an earlier poll so this number had secured the Brunel Suite that will be decorated appropriately by Maria and Team (including crackers) for the event with Ros supplying the table centre decorations and a Raffle by Ted. RB would ask or the Brunel bar to be open, at least initially, to save too much close contact in the hotel bar. RB re-iterated that any Balance for the Lunch would need to be paid over the bar on arrival.

RB + DM would endeavour to set up Online Banking (OLB) for the Club account – currently only viewed on a quarterly statement - so advance payments by diners could be made and recorded via Bank Transfer (BT) but if OLB were arranged in time such BT payments would need to have cleared by Friday 10th December – the returns deadline to enable the Lunch account to be finalised ready for the following Thursday.

DM explained that because of the vast number of selections available for the Lunch a different format would be needed for diners' returns that he would ensure would follow the KISS principle. He would issue the Choices letter soon after the Nov lunch. He had discussed/agreed practical options to remove ambiguity with Maria.

Replacement/Additional Signatories to Cheques. RB explained that this is still a 'job in progress' as it has to be done online and thus only after OLB has been setup. DM, as a new signatory, will help RB set up OLB and registration of the new signatories (DM, GS, RT) approved at the SG's Oct21 meeting. Once that has been done, all signatories will have access to the Club Account that would still require 2 signatures for all payments but all will have the necessary permissions to view and print the Account transactions & statements. Then RB will be able to retire as Treasurer as requested. Until then RB will continue as the primary Account Holder.

NEW MATTERS

Future of the Cromwell Probus (Luncheon) Club. In Jan 22, RB would like all diners on the roll to be polled – by an SG questionnaire about how they would like to see the Club progress and its residual funds disposed of in 2022. Viz: Would it remain as a simple PAYG Luncheon Club with a variety of lunch organisers - a concept that he believed was a temporary measure to get people together in sufficient numbers to justify – if a large majority agree - a return of the Club to its former structure of President, Treasurer and Secretary + Members , but this time with a Constitution welcoming all genders as members. Please mull this over.

Club Back-Office Administration. DM agreed to continue to provide a 'secretarial' function that, using fixed, SG-shared, transparent semi-automated systems and the website, does not impose a great burden on him. However, should anyone aspire to becoming Club Secretary, DM is happy to cede to that person AND in the meantime he would like an IT-savvy deputy please. ANY VOLUNTEERS?

Jan 22 Chair. RB volunteered to continue chairing SG & Lunch meetings to Jan 22 with DM supporting as Lunch Coord/Collator.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the SG will be at 1030 on Tuesday 14 Dec 21. Any items for that Agenda should be addressed to lunch@cromwellprobusclub.org.uk.