

Subterranea Britannica Annual General Meeting 2023 – Minutes

11 March 2023, Canada Water Theatre, London

The meeting was opened at 10.00 by the Chairman, Tim Wellburn, who welcomed all those attending, especially so many new members. 67 members were present.

1. Apologies were received from:
Dave Taylor, Geoff Manaugh, Sarah Cash, Jonathan Maisey, Roger Gosling, John Burgess, Mike Moore, Ian Jackson, Fiona Buchanan.
2. The Minutes of the AGM 2022 held online on 23 April were published to all members in **Subterranea** #60, August 2022. It was proposed by Bob Templeman and seconded by Nigel Wall that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting; the proposal was accepted by those attending with no abstentions.
3. Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022. This has been made available to all members on Sub Brit's shared document drive. Tim highlighted a few of our achievements of 2022:
 - Financial reserves strong
 - Membership strong at 2022 year-end = 990, up slightly on previous year. Tim encouraged attendees to try and attract more members as there is benefit (financially) in keeping to the 1000 members.
 - Over 13,000 subscribers to social networking channels
 - 3 new issues of *Subterranea*
 - *Subterranea* editions 53-55 added to our publicly accessible archive
 - Responded to membership survey feedback to improve membership experience
 - Delivered a substantial programme of underground or underground-related site visits
 - Spring Conference and site visit to Crossness Pumping station
 - European Study Visit - major underground fortifications along the Maginot line
 - Autumn Study Programme with site visits & lectures, based in Edinburgh
 - New grants authorised totalling £2,400
4. Accounts 2022: Sub Brit's Accounts have been signed off by the Committee and Independent Examiner and have been filed at Companies House and the Charity Commission. They will also be on Sub Brit's website.
5. Elections of Officers and Committee. Tim introduced all the Committee members attending today – all bar Dave Maguire and Richard Seabrook.

The motion that nominations for Sub Brit's Committee be considered '*en-bloc*' was proposed by Clive Penfold and seconded by Bob Clary. The motion was carried unanimously.

The motion to elect the following Committee members was proposed by John Lill and seconded by Penny Eisen. The motion was carried unanimously.

The elected Committee for 2023/24 is:-

Tim Wellburn	Chairman
Neil Iosson	Vice-Chairman (Website content)
Linda Dixon	Secretary
Tony Radstone	Treasurer

Richard West	Membership Secretary
James Buller	Member (Social Media)
Phil Catling	Member (SB Meetings)
Martin Dixon	Member
Dave Maguire	Member (Subterranea content and Visits)
Richard Seabrook	Member (Technology)

6. Subscription Rates for 2023. Tim reminded people of the rationale, which had been distributed with the AGM papers. Sub Brit's aim is to cover our costs, not make a profit or loss. Costs have gone up markedly recently and the proposal is to increase the subs from £25 to £28 to cover this increase. Some questions were raised.

Q1: Would it be better to stop producing a hardcopy magazine and just do a pdf?

A1: The recent survey showed that the vast majority of members want to keep a printed copy; and it is more economic (postage wise) to produce and send 1000 copies.

Q2: Other groups have higher subs (e.g. ARG £30, FSG £50) – why not put it up to £30?

A2: The committee considered this but decided it might have too big an impact on some members.

Q3: Have we considered life membership?

A3: No, but this can be tabled at the next committee meeting.

The meeting was asked to vote on the increase to £28; the vote was unanimous with no abstentions.

The Chairman finished by outlining some of the events underway for 2023:

- 5th Site Visit to Mail Rail (January)
- SB AGM & Spring Meeting & Visit to Brompton Cemetery Catacombs (March)
- Site Visit (by ballot) to Windsor Castle Sally Port & St.George's Chapel (March)
- Site Visit (by ballot) to Warren Row WWII Aircraft Factory / RSG, Henley (April)
- Site Visit to Short's Tunnels, Rochester (April)
- 6th Site Visit to Mail Rail (April)
- Denmark Study Weekend (April)
- Liverpool Weekend Site Visits (May)
- Mid-England Barrow - Sub Brit Open Invitation for Individual Visits
- North Polish Fortifications Special Tour (September)

The Meeting officially closed at 10.25, and was followed by the Spring Meeting.