

Subterranea Britannica Annual General Meeting 2024 – Minutes

13 April 2024, Canada Water Theatre, London

The meeting was opened at 10.00 by the Chairman, Tim Wellburn, who welcomed everyone and was pleased to see such a good turnout - 87 members were present.

1. Apologies were received from:
Tony Radstone, Ben Walden, Nigel Headley, Stewart Wild, Phil Langdale, Ian Jackson, Andy Dyason.
2. The Minutes of the AGM 2023 held on 11 March were published to all members in **Subterranea** #62, April 2023. It was proposed by Bob Templeman and seconded by Alistair Graham Kerr that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting; the proposal was accepted by those attending with 4 abstentions.
3. Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023. This has been made available to all members on Sub Brit's shared document drive. Tim highlighted a few of our achievements of 2023:
 - Financial reserves strong
 - Membership of 924 at 2023 year-end slightly down from prior year-end (990)
 - Over 14,700 subscribers to social networking channels
 - 3 new issues of **Subterranea**
 - **Subterranea** editions 56-58 added to our publicly accessible archive
 - A substantial programme of underground or underground-related site visits
 - Spring Conference and Brompton Cemetery Catacombs site visit
 - European Study Visit - the Danish Government's former bunker 'Regan Vest' and Jutland fortifications
 - Autumn Study Visit to Poland in conjunction with the Coast Defence Study Group and the Fortress Study Group
 - New grants authorised totalling £5,500

The Chairman also made mention of the recent passing of three singular members of Sub Brit who made significant contributions to the society – Philip Lindhurst, M C Black and John Burgess – the latter two both served on the Committee. Tim also publicly thanked Peter Burgess who catalogued all of the books/magazines left to Sub Brit by Paul Sowen.

4. Accounts 2023: 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 are also on Sub Brit's website.
5. Elections of Officers and Committee. Tim introduced all the Committee members attending today, although a couple were missing, due to the very successful Sub Brit 50th anniversary party last night. There are two new members standing for election (Rhiannon Green and Andy Dyason), who have already been co-opted to committee meetings.

The motion that nominations for Sub Brit's Committee be considered '*en-bloc*' was proposed by Tom Wilcox and seconded by Mike Moore. The motion was carried unanimously.

The motion to elect the following Committee members was proposed by Sandy Eisen and seconded by Clive Penfold. 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 *
Andy Dyason	Member (Technology)
Rhiannon Green	Member (Projects)
Dave Maguire	Member (Subterranea article coordination and Visits)

* = Director

6. Subscription Rates for 2024. 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 and inflation have continued to rise and the proposal is to increase the subs from £28 to £30 to cover this increase. Some questions were raised.

Q1: Does the Committee think there will be a need to increase the rate again next year?

A1: We hope not, but will keep the situation under review.

The meeting was asked to vote on the increase to £30; the vote was unanimous with no abstentions. The new rate will be effective 14th April 2024.

Jim Nelhams proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee which was supported by all attending.

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