

IBM Hursley Retirees' Club

Minutes of AGM 3 March 2020

Opening and Apologies:

The meeting was opened by the chair, Beth Roberts. Having welcomed the 50 + members who were attending the AGM, Beth introduced the first speaker, Paul Kettley, to give the Laboratory update. Those sending apologies were: Sue and Dave Barr, Ingrid and John Bond, Roger Marlow, Joy Matthews, Merv Quick, Steve Newberry, Alan Stubbs, Jim Woodland.

Paul Kettley - Hursley Laboratory Manager

Paul opened his presentation saying he was pleased to be presenting to the retirees for the third time during his two years in this role. He would be covering four main areas to include the Technology Teams in Hursley, Some Unexpected Events, Site Improvements and Green Activity. He showed a slide of the site explaining where the different departments were located. CICS in A Block were given a mention as they did some super stuff in 2019 and produced the biggest revenue ever. C Block Hardware now has 160 developers, which would be of interest to some of those in the audience. The A Block Data Centre is a showcase for Technology and Paul offered to look into a possible tour that could be organised for retirees. The IBM Cloud continues to involve a large team and is a reliable source of income and expertise for the Lab. The big focus was on IBM containerised software, where there is a growing team of 40 developers and was a big revenue for 2019 and growing. Paul then continued to talk about two incidents that had caused some alarm during the past year. The first was on 5th November where fire alarms had gone off in the Data Centre causing 20 fire officers to arrive on site. No smoke was visible but thermal imaging enabled early detection and a possible catastrophe was averted. The other event was during the quiet period 29th December when few people were on site and again a disaster was averted by early detection of a Water Pump Failure.

Meanwhile the site improvements continue, in the auditorium where our AGM is being held, we can see a major change with a new projector and the 6-metre-wide screen. Money has been spent on Clubhouse improvements including the Sports Hall linkway. Air conditioning continues to be installed and every block needs different attention. The D Block double glazing cost \$7M and cafeteria improvement is still in plan. Paul would like to have an outdoor balcony there in the long term, also the chance to turn the space into a meeting venue at certain times. In front of Hursley House work is proceeding to give the site flood protection. Green Activity continues to be encouraged with energy conservation and more metering of utilities. Green weeks are held and single use cups are discouraged. Paul announced that he had a gift for everyone attending, a reusable mug with lid specially adapted with Hursley signage. In 2020 more trees are to be planted, smarter buildings instigated and a long-term plan for recharging points for electric vehicles.

Pensions News:

Beth Roberts thanked Paul for his update on the Hursley site and then introduced Mark Griffiths, IBM Pension Trust Manager & Company Secretary. Mark said he is now in his second year in this position after a 36-year career with IBM. He continued his presentation by showing the 9 trustees made up of 5 company, 3 member-nominated and 1 independent. The Member Nominated Director (MND) elections are now being held and retirees are encouraged to vote. The cut-off date is 27th March 2020. The chart also showed the in-house management team and there are 55 pensions staff in total in North Harbour.

The Main Plan funding has changed over the past three years: Assets and Liabilities were well funded with the C plan now showing 109% on a low risk plan.

Discretionary Increases – IBM has agreed an additional 2 years for C and N plan on the same terms as was previously implemented, until 2022. The Trustee’s long-term funding objective is for the Plan to have sufficient assets to pay the benefits due, both now and in the future, without the need for further Company contributions. The I Plan has a membership of 20,000 with deferred 5,000; again, the funding changes for past three years were shown and this plan is 103% funded.

A further chart showing active membership and pensioner changes for both the Main and I Plan was shown and further details can be found on the Pension’s website: www.smartpensionsuk.co.uk. This year’s pension increases will not be announced until Friday 6th March but will be available on the Pension’s website shortly. A reminder also to please inform Pensions Department of any personal changes that occur.

Chairman’s Report:

Beth thanked Mark for his presentation and commenced with the formal task of asking for last year’s minutes to be approved. Richard Wright approved, seconded by Peter Etheridge. Beth then continued to report that 2019 had been another successful and busy year with an increase in the number of trips organised. However, the number of retirees on trips have reduced resulting in more one coach only trips. It is apparent that new retirees do not automatically get information about retiree clubs. There is also a confusion between IBM Club (Clubhouse) and a Retirees Club. We are trying to improve this through North Harbour, but word and mouth is often successful.

Beth explained that a new arrangement for next year’s AGM has been discussed at committee level. The suggestion was put to the floor to hold an afternoon meeting in the Clubhouse and from a show of hands a majority of those present would be in favour of this.

As usual a chart was shown of those Hursley retirees who had passed away during the year. This list is also available on the Hurrec website and regularly updated.

Treasurer’s Report:

Richard Walker went through his PowerPoint presentation showing the activity during 2019. 25 retiree events had been arranged and we received £18.3K subsidy. There was a £8.8K decrease in our current account but we still had £9K year end. With the aid of algebra Richard explained IBM’s rules for subsidy vs expenditure. We are allowed a working capital of 15% of income (£7K 2019). The problem arises when there are fewer events → less expenditure → less income → bank balance increases. Reduction in subsidy could be result. If we go with more events – more income, bank balance zero – this could result in cashflow problems or even make us overdrawn.

In 2019 the result was: Income £26K, Subsidy £18K Balance B/F 18K. Expenditure £53K C/F £9K. This resulted in £9k reduction in bank balance so going in right direction. The plan for 2020: Income £21K, Subsidy £16K, Bank Balance B/F £9K. Expenditure £37K C/F £9K. Therefore we need to arrange more trips or subsidy will be reduced. Target for this year to C/F <£5.6K.

A question from the floor asking about reducing the price of trips to retirees but Richard explained that over the year our subsidy can only be maximum 50% of the cost of trips. We are arranging more ‘small number trips’ this year e.g. theatre trips, and the message is that if a group of 10 or more get a trip organised, then they can contact the treasurer for the appropriate subsidy to be arranged.

Election of Officers and Committee

Paul Kettley was invited to take the meeting momentarily to appoint the officers and committee members for 2020. We are pleased to announce that we have two new members joining and the committee is confirmed as follows:

Eric Bodger will take over as Chair and Beth will continue to co-ordinate trip requests.

Chair:	Eric Bodger
Treasurer:	Richard Walker
Secretary:	Pauline Bell
Committee:	Beth Roberts, Trips, Merv Quick, eBusiness, Perspective, Ron Wilks, Webmaster, Joy Matthews, Theatre Visits, Ingrid Bond, Ron Bowater, John Jones, Roger Marlow, Alan Stubbs, Paul Homewood, Josh Sampays

Photographic Competition

Ron Wilks presented the results on behalf of Merv Quick. The committee passed on their thanks to Brynja Maugham for her time taken in judging the entries. This year there was a 4th place. The results were as follows:

1st Mike Wenman (Collage of Bristol Regatta)

2nd Steve Russell (Happiness on the Beach)

3rd Alan Gordon (Pier Silhouette)

4th Ron Bowater (Oxford)

The winner will receive a free coach-only trip.

2020 Trips

The list of 2020 trips were presented on the screen during the evening so everyone present could get a preview. Booking forms will be mailed shortly and emailed to those on the email distribution list. Further information on the trips will also be available on the Hurrec website.

AOB

Thanks to Tina Willoughby and the team at Hursley for hosting our meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.