

IBM Hursley Retirees Club

Minutes of AGM 6 March 2018

Opening and Apologies

The meeting was opened by the chair, John Jones. Having welcomed the 80 members who were attending the AGM, John introduced the first speaker, Paul Kettley, to give the Laboratory update. Those sending apologies were: Ron Bowater, John Bristow, David Friend, Catherine Glover, Julian Jones, Roger Marlow, Brian Mould, Merv Quick, Rob Veck, Martin West, Jim Woodland.

Paul Kettley - Hursley Laboratory & UK Lab Campus Locations Manager

Paul commenced his presentation by giving a brief resume of his career. He joined IBM in 1990 and had worked in CICS, MQ for many years and has now been in his present position for just four weeks. He talked about the continuing improvements taking place around the site and enthused about the vibrant environment presently in the lab and outlined the many areas of activity. He explained there is a different life cycle to projects now with new functions and ideas coming forward every couple of days. The employees now have access to the smart new gym which was mentioned last year and this now has an average footfall of around 100 a day. In C Block there is another area call The Hub where pool tables and table tennis and other games are available for after work socialising and this again has proved very popular. The infrastructure upgrade continues as planned and this will continue over next two years to include cooling system, heating and general refurbishments. A highlight this year had been a visit from IBM CEO Ginni Rometty who had toured the Lab and had been impressed with all she had seen and the way employees were responding to the open spaces and new social working environment. The Hursley Clubhouse also comes under Paul's area and he encouraged retirees to support this excellent facility. Last November the Fireworks evening had been resurrected and proved a great success with 3,100 attending. Jill Robinson would cover Club activities in more detail later in the meeting.

Pensions News

John Jones thanked Paul for his very enthusiastic update on the Hursley site and then introduced Claire Smith, Pensions Transformation Manager, IBM Pensions Trust. Claire began by saying she had just come from a regular trustees meeting in South Bank and started her presentation by showing charts of the new pension increases which are in line with inflation rises. The charts showed the variations depending on which type of pension a retiree is receiving. In general, it was good to report the pension funding position is strong. Increases at 50% of RPI have been agreed with IBM up to and including the April 2020 increases. The trustee will work with IBM to seek agreement to future guaranteed increases related to pre-1997 service. She encouraged everyone to sign on to the new website and explained how it is now open to view all categories. The 2018 pension information is now online at: www.smartpensionsuk.co.uk. While on subject of pensions Claire reminded retirees that it is very important to keep their beneficiary records up to date and this can easily be done via the website.

Claire briefly outlined the outcome of Project Waltz: In August 2017 the Appeal Court upheld IBM's appeal. In October 2017 the Representative Beneficiaries announced that they would not be seeking leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. The Pensions Trust can now plan the future.

For reference a copy of the charts used by Claire is available on the Hursley Retirees website.

Chairman's Report

John Jones reported that 2017 had been a successful year with a great variety of trips. The committee had received appreciative feedback from retirees which is always welcome also we received many suggestions for future trips and these are taken into account when planning the year ahead. The meeting then paused for a short moment while John showed a list of deaths of Hursley retirees that had been notified from North Harbour during the past year. This list is also available on the Hurrec website and regularly updated. Following on from this John expressed his appreciation to Jean Helyar who had died recently. Jean had given Harry much help, support and encouragement over the many years as Secretary with all the trips admin that the job entails. John continued by announcing that Jim Woodland was retiring this year from the Retirees committee having served more than 20 years. During this time he had tirelessly arranged all the theatre trips and researched many of our National Trust visits. We wish him a happy retirement! We are pleased to announce that Joy Matthews will take over the role arranging future theatre bookings.

Treasurers Report:

Richard Walker outlined the financial report signed off for the year 2017 and thanks go to Roger Clark for examining the accounts. There had been 17 subsidised trips but we did not spend all the money despite the subsidy going down each year. As per the previous year all our trips are now limited numbers and this has meant less wasted money on coaches half filled. We run a waiting list on popular trips and when there are cancellations this has proved a very successful way of filling a trip at the last minute. Payment of invoices can now be made via BACS and this has worked well with only one cheque being necessary. This cuts the work load and time taken to pay for the trips and coaches. For 2018 the subsidy is reduced by 22% to 15.5K and at the present time we have 23 retiree events in plan. This is a bumper year but as the subsidy drops increasingly in future we may have to decide between fewer trips or higher prices. Richard invited retirees who wish to organise a trip to apply to him for funding. We can run a trip for a minimum of ten retirees so niche trips can be considered. For information John Jones had attended a UK Retiree Club Chair meeting recently when it had been revealed that there are only two other countries, Germany and Denmark who are still running retiree clubs.

Hursley Club Activities:

Jill Robinson was invited to the AGM to talk about the Hursley Club activities in the Clubhouse. Jill is Vice Chair of the Club and she had brought along a programme of events to distribute to retirees. This year Hursley is celebrating 60 years on site and there are many celebration events planned. June 23/24 will be a Book Fair with local authors attending. HURFEST on Saturday 30th June from 2.00pm and on 25th August an open-air Shakespeare Play. On Saturday 22nd September a Lab Open Day is planned and retirees are being invited to produce a 60 second video of their key project memories to be put into videos that will be produced for the Open Day. Jill encouraged everyone to get involved and her contact is JILLB@uk.ibm.com. Annual membership of the Hursley Club is £12.00 for retiree and spouse and at present there are 233 retiree members.

Election of Officers and Committee

Jill was invited to take the meeting to appoint the officers and committee members for 2017. There was one position change : Beth Roberts would be taking over as Chair. Jill then asked, and was granted, the option of voting the new committee in en-bloc. This vote was approved by Keith Male and seconded by Alan Gordon. The new committee is:

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

Photographic Competition

Beth thanked those who had submitted slides and this year. Ron Wilks deputising for Merv then showed the winning photos from this year's photographic competition. The winners were:

Winner: Roger Clark, **2nd Place:** Peter Snow, **3rd place:** Mike Wenman

Beth thanked our judge, Brynja Maugham.

2018 Trips

Beth went through the list of trips for 2018. Hardcopy trip booking forms will be mailed within the next couple of days and emailed to those on the email distribution list shortly. Further information on the trips will also be available on the Hurrec website. It should be noted that since copying the 2018 trips a further 5 trips have been added and these can now only be sent via email distribution. If you know of anyone not on email and interested in trips please pass on this information.

AOB

Beth thanked Ruth Scorey for her assistance in setting up the arrangements for our AGM and all that it entails from the Hursley Lab point of view. The meeting closed at 8:20pm

ADDENDUM:

The day following the AGM we learned that Harry Helyar had passed away. Everyone who has been on trips over the past 20 years and more will have had reason to thank Harry for his tireless work on the committee as Secretary and trips organiser. He and Jean will be sadly missed.