



The British Balloon Museum & Library

Registered Charity No 281331

www.britishballoonmuseum.org.uk

Minutes of the Thirty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of the British Balloon Museum & Library held at The Elcot Hotel, Newbury, on Sunday 30th October 2016.

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| Present: | Robin Batchelor | President |
| | Richard d'Alton | Chairman |
| | Giles Camplin | Vice Chairman |
| | Tim Turner | Secretary |
| | John Baker | Archivist |
| | John Crawford | Treasurer |
| | Celia Kunert | Membership Secretary |
| | Jenni d'Alton | Council Member |
| | Pete Bish | Council Member |
| | David Bareford | Council Member |
| | Jeff Roberts | Council Member |
| | Martyn Turner | Council Member |
| | Angela Lickorish | Friend |
| | Roger Brown | Friend |
| | Don Cameron | Friend |
| | Nigel Tasker | Friend |

Chairman Richard d'Alton, welcomed all those present to the AGM, and declared the meeting open.

1. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from; Peter Lewis-Smith, Roy & Rita Boyle, Bill Andrews, John Coleman, Fay Sheppard, John & Vee Burrows, Phil & Allie Dunnington, Christine Camplin, Ben Nathan, Pete Dalby, David & Ann Thomas & Ed Lubbock. A number of others had offered apologies for being unable to attend the Luncheon.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

A minor amendment to the 2015 minutes had been incorporated after publication. Within the Financial Statement, the official title of our accountants should read 'Keens Shay Keens MK LLP'. With no further 'Matters Arising' from the 2015 minutes, the proposal was put to the meeting for them to be accepted.



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Proposal: The minutes of the 34th BBM&L AGM 2015 were accepted as true copy.

Proposed: Jenni d'Alton

Seconded: John Crawford

Vote: The proposal was carried.

3. Council Matters –

i) Re-Election of Council Members. The two Council members up for re-election this year were:

David Bareford and **Tim Turner**

Both David & Tim had once again offered their services to stand for re-election.

Proposal: David Bareford & Tim Turner be re-elected to the Council of the BBM&L.

Proposed: Richard d'Alton

Seconded: John Baker

Vote: The proposal was carried unanimously.

ii) Jeff Roberts had been invited to join the Council of the BBM&L earlier in the year and required ratification at this meeting. Tim Turner said Jeff has always maintained an interest in the Museum affairs and was already responsible as a category holder for the Museum's stamp collection so was pleased to welcome Jeff's support to joining the council ranks!

Proposal: Jeff Roberts be formally elected to the Council of the BBM&L.

Proposed: Tim Turner

Seconded: John Baker

Vote: The proposal was carried unanimously – welcome Jeff!

4. Financial Statement –

- John Crawford, as Treasurer, had once again prepared the Annual Accounts ready for Angela to 'tidy and fine tune'. The accounts were circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting, and having brought no comments (relief), and Angela, as usual had produced a very impressive document! One area of concern for JC were two invoices, one from Brian Rippon for the web site, and for various reasons covered two periods of accounting (invoice sent to an out of date address), and the garment supplier Merrison's who, despite JC's efforts in July - which involved sending a letter and cheque to try and tidy the account! JC advised the company, if they agreed with John's figures then to cash the cheque, alternatively to contact the Museum! Neither had taken place i.e. the cheque was still to be cashed (you can only do so much John), but it does interfere with the BBM&L accounting which has been left to Angela to rectify! One good thing was that there hadn't been a 'falling out' over the issue because Jenni was still ordering and receiving garments!
- Overall during the accounting period, the BBM&L showed a loss of £966 (a large portion of that figure was the import charges relating to the balloons from America last year), this, however, was in keeping with normal trends i.e. no Inflation Day then the figures were always down! In the five years JC has been Treasurer, averaged out with the Museum remaining profitable! Despite the financial loss for the accounting period it was suggested by JC there was no need for subs to be increased, although the storage bill for example, continued to increase annually, but remained realistic! So once again the Museum was indebted to Angela and her company Keens Shay Keens. The annual 'signing of the accounts then took place by Richard & Tim! Richard thanked both John and Angela for their efforts in keeping things in order.

Proposal: Accounts, for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, accepted as a true copy.

Proposed: Tim Turner

Seconded: Richard d'Alton

Vote: The proposal was carried.



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(ii) It was proposed that Keens Shay Keens MK LLP, (via Angela Lickorish), continue to oversee the Museum's monetary interests as our financial advisors.

Proposal; The continuation of Keens Shay Keens MK LLP as financial advisors to the BBM&L.

Proposed: Jenni d'Alton

Seconded: Pete Bish

Vote: The proposal was carried

5. The Council's Report (October 2015 to October 2016)

- Richard, as Chairman, started the Council's report with the highlight of 2016, a very successful Inflation Day held in May. Richard congratulated both Tim & Martyn, along with all the help received on the day, for making it one of the most successful events (both monetary and numbers of balloons attending) the Museum has held, so well done the Inflation Team! The only worry now is how to surpass such a successful event but it was hoped Tim would be overseeing things in the foreseeable years and that there would be a natural successor to take over in due course - son Martyn!
- Richard said John Crawford's efforts as Treasurer were appreciated, and despite this year's loss he was comfortable the Museum finances were in good hands, along with Angela and her company.
- John Baker's assistance in answering the many enquires the Museum receives during the year demonstrates the confidence the public has in the Museum to answer the diverse questions that are submitted! Thank you John.
- Richard welcomed Jeff Roberts, the latest member of the council and said he would be a very welcome addition to the meetings and hoped he would be an active contributor to the Museum's activities. Richard went on to say there was still a skills gap the Museum required, in the form of someone with marketing expertise to put the Museum in places we need to be and give us an 'image makeover', in particular to change the impression that the Museum is only for retirees and was unapproachable, something that needs to transform to ensure the future of the Museum! Richard remembers a comment from Mike Allen in 2008 when he said 'looking round the table at the age of the council who were mainly balding, grey or of the older generation' and he thought every effort should be made to lower the average age and bring in fresh ideas and planning for the future – Richard observed - not a lot had changed in the subsequent years! Richard went on to say how appreciative he, and the Council, were of Jenni's organisation of the Luncheon once again, and not to forget the BBM&L President



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The Council's Report (cont'd)

Robin Batchelor for his efforts with the auction and raffle for not only this year, but previous years as well – the skills required are un-quantifiable, thank you both. for your support!

- Richard wound up his report by thanking all council members, for their continued support over the last year, in their diverse and specialist ways, all were a great help to him as Chairman, and may the support continue into the future– all being very much appreciated, and he is already looking forward to another challenging year ahead!!

(After Meeting Note; It didn't come any easier this year either did it Robin – 'blood from a stone' time again!).

The Collection & Hardware –

- Tim reported, firstly, on the latest balloon acquisitions, these included G-BUUN, G-ZETA, G-BDGH, G-PHOT, G-PIPY and the latest just this week was the long sought after G-BBCB (Cee Bee) from the Giles Bulmer's estate, kindly donated by his wife and family – all were received with thanks!
- John Baker responded to an invite from David Liddiard to visit and who had kindly donated a number of collectable items, including a set of Icicle plaques (believed to be a complete set although one year was missing, but possibly not produced that year) plus additional plaques and trophies presented to David over his illustrious ballooning career. Thank you David!
- Richard once again valued the support of David Hopkins at Pidley, Pete Bish at Hungerford for the storage facilities provided by them, also the storage afforded to the Museum at Cameron's factory at Bristol! As storage was vital to the Museum's collection policy the facilities offered were greatly appreciated – thank you all!

Events –

- Tim went on to report on the various events that the Museum had participated during the last year - not as many as previous years but never-the-less most welcome! Inflation Day 2016 being the highlight of the year, perfect weather, 96 balloons and record takings at the gate not to mention a warm welcome by David Hopkins to Pidley once again! A very successful day and appreciation to the 'backroom team' putting it together and all the pilots and ballooning teams that participated to make it so successful. The first public outing since restoration of SE-ZYN was a welcome feature, not to mention the four Chubb balloons inflated together for what was believed the first time! The Museum's other major outing of the year was a more routine Bristol Fiesta, where Neil Ivison managed to get the Museum's Spark Plug shape completely inflated (after the effort of Zebedee Balloon Services to get it to an inflatable standard) which was an achievement in itself, David Hopkins Golf Ball shape was the other contribution to the event, as ever our attendance was appreciated by the Bristol organisation!
- Chris Dunkley, who has been very supportive to the Museum over the years, made a request for the loan of two of the balloons in the collection to be inflated for a surprise event for Tessa Tennant's (who is quite ill apparently) recent birthday. The balloons involved from the Museum were G-BUBL (Mercier) and G-BIDV (Smirnoff) were successfully inflated by a gathered 40 or so friends (including the BBM&L President Robin Batchelor)! A very well received event of which the Museum's contribution was appreciated by those present!
- Tim went on to say the Bristol authorities are keen to expand the BBM&L participation in the event with a daily afternoon involvement with inflations – all to the benefit of the Museum! This was under consideration, but would have to involve more pilots from the Museum to make it happen!
- Another event that the Museum had been invited to was an event planned to be held at Eastbourne on the south coast next summer in June or July- still in the early planning stages but anyone interested in attending with a BBM&L envelope or two would be appreciated!



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Friends & Council –

- Richard thanked Celia for her commitment in keeping tabs on the membership situation and chasing those not keeping up payment for their subs, which is never an easy job. Celia reported 295 current Friends of the Museum (thirty new members since the last AGM), although adding a caveat that there were now eight Friends who were in the renewable ‘warning’ period! This was nothing new as numbers changed quite frequently, but one worrying trend was someone who had joined at Inflation Day with direct debit then cancelled the payment before the money could be collected – TT thought this may have been linked to Inflation Day to gain the benefit of access to the arena as a Friend! A discussion followed that there were people attending today’s luncheon who weren’t Friends of the Museum – an opportunity to gain new members perhaps!

Website/Facebook –

- Richard said the Museum Facebook pages continued to be popular, creating much interest in the items incorporated by Jenni, (737 ‘likes’ compared with 414 a year ago for example) so the popularity was very much on the increase, which despite Tim’s dislike of Facebook, it has to be admitted it is a valuable means of communication! Ballooning questions continue to be presented via both Facebook and emails, with expert analysis provided, as always, by John Baker! The website continues to be a focus for updating as it has become rather ‘tired’ and requires a makeover! Richard is being strong-minded with plans to improve things in the not too distant future and get the site updated! He believes with the high standard being set by Trailrope, the website should complement it with a high standard also! Robin questioned the value in having two Facebook pages, and it was agreed if the unwanted one (the one that had been ‘hi-jacked’ some years ago) could be disabled then it was the way forward!

Trailrope –

- Richard said that the new approach by Jenni with Trailrope continues to receive the accolades it deserves and he appreciates the significant effort Jenni puts into it’s presentation! Jenni said she was extremely pleased with the contribution’s she received for each issue! On reaching edition 104 it was obvious the magazine was reaching new ‘heights’ giving positive, informative humourist and unique views on historical ballooning – long may it continue! Trailrope was giving the membership good value for their subscriptions, and providing the Museum with a valuable marketing tool which should be grasped at any opportunity – congratulations to Jenni.



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6. AOB

- Giles issued a warning as to what was occurring with the Charities Commission, and the entitlement to have the accreditation, as this was being reviewed, so it was a case of ensuring the BBM&L very much kept its 'house in order' should the questions be asked in relation to our qualifications for the Museum's registration, as it could be withdrawn!
- Giles, having become the Chairman of both AHT and The Airship Association in recent times and was planning to hold a two day conference, hopefully at Cardington, in about a years time and asked if the BBM&L would be prepared to provide a suitable speaker for the event, what we do as an organisation and background on hot air ballooning would be welcomed! He was hoping to include a model flying display in the shed (and even 'dreamed' of a full sized airship, (looking at Don Cameron).
- Robin continued to examine the opportunities as to how any future PR type person could be recruited, and tackle the issues of getting younger balloonists to join the BBM&L and ultimately become future council members!
- At the unveiling of the Sadler plaque, that John Baker and Robin had attended recently, it had become apparent that there were plans to have a static balloon ride installed in Oxford! Robin was questioning as to whether this could be an opportunity for the BBM&L to have a representation with a display. Pete Bish added it was imperative any opportunities like this were explored as it was becoming difficult when people asked 'where is your museum, I would like to visit' – for many reasons, the displays the BBM&L now have, unfortunately, have been reduced in recent years!
- Don Cameron made comment that there were early thoughts as to whether there could be a 50th anniversary celebration of 'Bristol Belle's' first flight, coming up on 9th July 2017 and it was hoped an event could be put together! An opportunity not to be missed was the consensus of the meeting!
- Robin Batchelor expressed appreciation to Jenni for continuing to organise the Luncheon and the headaches that came with the responsibility!
- Tim said as the Museum had been made aware that Mike Allen had passed away earlier this year, and he thought it an appropriate time to remember that Mike was a founder member of the Museum (No.1) and how generous he had been to the Museum since those days. Mike had generously donated his valuable collection of ballooning books, funded the display trailer to name two! It was sad hearing the news, but Mike's legacy will always be valued by the BBM&L!

There being no further business Richard closed the meeting (12:07). He thanked everyone for showing an interest in the BBM&L by attending the AGM! He wished all an enjoyable meal, and said how privileged the BBM&L was to have, as the guest speaker this year, Mike Kendrick, and was sure the presentation would be an enlightening one!

*Post Script to the Meeting; Richard, at the Luncheon, always presents the David Liddiard Chairman's Trophy to the council member, who in his opinion, has contributed most to the Museum over the preceding year! With one of the most successful Inflation Days held in May and in appreciation of **Tim Turner's** efforts, in 'pulling it all together', Tim was awarded the trophy for 2016 - very well deserved.*