

## Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30 in Le Bastion

### 1. Apologies and proxy votes

The President, Robert Brereton, welcomed 59 members with 14 apologies and 5 proxy votes being received.

### 2. Signing of minutes

Following a proposal by James Swarsbrick seconded by Eike Willems, the minutes of the 2014 AGM were duly signed by the President and Secretary as a correct record.

### 3. President's Report

Robert Brereton, President, summarised our varied activities for the year including monthly Friday soirees, 25 group activities, Vide Grenier, coach trip to Bordeaux, Medieval Xmas banquet and entertainment, three classical concerts, summer BBQ and Group Leader's lunch.

He updated members on the progress being made on the 'Living together in France' (LIFT) project to provide some form of sheltered living for those members who may need it and want to spend the rest of their days in France. There is interest from members of La Tulipe, Credit Agricole, a local builder/developer and three possible sites in Le Bugue are under consideration.

Robert reported that we now have a record 271 members of 11 nationalities. 57 new members joined this year while an equivalent number of members have returned to their homeland or moved to Spain.

Robert and John Kuppens described the Committee's concern that to achieve our objectives we need additional members serving on the committee and need to plan for the future to ensure continuity. The committee currently consists of 8 members some of whom are also Group Leaders. Christine Dumaux, language co-ordinator, has stepped down. We also need to spread the load by establishing a well organised support group of members we can call upon for help with activities and events. All members will be asked to volunteer in whatever way they can. Robert thanked the committee, Group leaders and volunteers for their help over the year.

John Kuppens (Vice President) presented the rationale for a stronger committee foundation and support group agreed by the committee citing the example of the Le Bugue Rugby Club. To secure our future a joint presidency was proposed and a committee of 10 assisted by the Support Group. This leaves a vacancy for Vice President. We received 4 new nominations for the committee. He also proposed a standardised annual programme which the committee would lead.

Robert then outlined some highlights for the new ACIP year which will include a coach trip to Bordeaux with something for everyone, a Xmas Event and Spring concerts. His full report is available on the ACIP website.

### 4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Alan Reeves, gave a detailed report for the financial year ending 30/09/15 which showed a healthy situation and concluded with the following totals:

Current Account.	1867.55
Cultural Account	1059.97
Deposit Account	3415.97

**Total Funds**                      **6343.49 euros**

The fact that the budget projection for the year was only 40 euros out was gratifying to note. The report will be placed on the website.

### 5. Election of officers

The proposal to establish a joint presidency was approved by members. Robert Brereton and John Kuppens were the nominees and were duly elected. Alan Reeves (Treasurer) and Jenny West (Secretary) were also re-elected. Paul Cope (Membership Secretary) and Gwyneth Green (Group Co-

ordinator) will continue in their posts.

The new nominations will be considered and confirmed at the next committee meeting.

#### **6. Vote of thanks**

The President gave a vote of thanks to all Group Leaders for their efforts on behalf of us all and to the Committee for their support throughout the year. He thanked Christine Dumaux who is stepping down and everyone who had helped with activities and events and gave a particular vote of thanks to Marie Kuppens for all her hard work at social evenings and in maintaining Le Bastion.

#### **7. Any other business**

No other business was raised

#### **8. Closure of business**

The President closed the meeting and invited all those present to have a complimentary drink. A jolly soirée ensued!