

# MINUTES OF S.D.C.C.G.B. AGM At Drayton Village Hall – MARCH 7th 2010

Susie Kelly

**Full Members Present:** Paul Amor, Cliff Anderton, Matt Baldry, Ken Brown, Alan Covacic, Trevor Day, Alan Evans, Simon Fielding, Trudy Fielding, Sandra Higson, Lynn Holloway, Avis Moore, Stephen Moore, Granville Spencer, Bert Spinney, John Stallard, Alex Stillwell, Roy Stillwell, Ron Sullivan, Dennis Thompson, Gene Turner, Judi Wakeley, Eric Webb, Dave Woolerton, Nick Wright

**Honorary Members:** Susie and Simon Kelly, Dick Taylor, Colin Haines,

29 voting members present.

**Apologies:** Phillip Alexander, John and Gene Davis, Peter Durber, Henry Garfath, Carol Gerry, Teresa Hart, Emma Horsefield, Robert Hurst, Keith Lovegrove, David Marshall, Norman Mitchell, Kath Williams,

**Associate Members present:** Paul Radcliffe.

**Apologies:** Geoff Holdcroft, Mirka Spinney.

**Others:** Walt Burr

The meeting started at 2pm

**The meeting was chaired by Walt Burr**

**Roll Call:** Trevor Day read through the list of apologies but assumed that everyone had signed in so making the meeting quorate.

**Minutes of the last AGM:** These were accepted as being a true record of the last AGM

**Matters Arising:** Paul Amor commented that he had asked for a break down of the costs of the July 2008 Caller School but this had been omitted from the minutes. Susie apologised for the omission and Colin promised to send them to Paul and also publish in N&V.

**Officers Reports:**

**PRESIDENT Walt Burr said:**

During the last 12 months we have continued to provide training opportunities for our members. We supported the formal training provided by GSI and many of our members were able to attend the full week school, several of our cuer members were able to make history by participating in the first ever formal week-long Cuer's school held in the UK. We have continued our support for and participation in the RPM committee.

One major change that took place this year was the disbanding of the Cuer's section and the start up of the Round Dance Council. This council is organized along the same lines as the ECTA Round Dance Council and takes in dancer members as well as Cuers. This allows anyone with an interest in Round dancing to participate in Council activities. I'm very

pleased to tell you that so far this new council has been very successful.

We are in the process of organizing a caller & cuer exchange with the Czech Caller's Association. Last year Alex Stillwell and I represented Caller's club at the Czech convention and in 2011 one of their callers and cuers will be coming to the UK for a dance organized by Caller's Club.

We are also planning another training weekend similar to the one we had in 2008. The dates will be 5 - 7 November 2010 and the coaches will be Kenny Reese and Joe Kromer for the callers and Martin Prüfer for the Cuers. We will be subsidizing part of the cost for our members again this year.

I would like to add that, as always, it has been a pleasure working with our talented and dedicated council members this year. Thank you all for the hard work that you've done.

On a personal note, it has been an honour to lead this organization for the last three years. I wish you all great success in all your future endeavors in our wonderful activity.

**SECRETARY: Susie Kelly**

We (Simon and I) visited WARCA last May and I gave a presentation of Plus Contrás. This turned out to be scary as I hadn't expected Henry Garfath to be there. He was very kind though. In June we were part of, and helped to run, the GSI School and Festival. In September we visited NARCA, taking Paul Bristow with us. I made a hash of my homework, so embarrassing. In November the meeting was at Bounds Green with LHCRCA and we were very disappointed with the turn out and the afternoon programming. We all came home after lunch. For those who travelled some distance to the meeting it was a great shame, and we apologise.

We were all saddened by the deaths of Jack Oliver in July, Laurie Bloor in November and Colin Turton on Christmas Eve. All a great loss to the activity.

Following on after one of our Northampton Practice days, on 3rd October, I chaired and minuted an initial meeting of the embryonic Cuer's Council, having first circulated an invitation to every Cuer in the UK we could think of, both working and retired.

I then took the Minutes at a second meeting, at Theale near Reading, on 20th November to which everyone was again invited. I am now, thankfully, leaving them to run things on their own.

Throughout the year we have attended all but one of the LHCRCA meetings.

Also throughout the year we have attended all the RPM meetings to represent Callers Club. We have been very disappointed still that no representative member of the BAASDC Council has come on board. This has meant that what I had thought at the start was to be a liaison and advisory role has actually morphed into me being more of a worker on the RPM Committee. And Linda Gill makes sure we all work. I have helped Paul Bristow to finalise the Booklet on Mentoring. I have written various articles, which may or may not get printed, in the U3A National magazine, the Country Music People Magazine and the Foundation for Community Dance magazine. Being on this committee sometimes means that my loyalties are stretched, especially when Linda is criticising Callers Club's non co-operation in something. I see both points of view when wearing either hat.

We attended the joint BAASDC, Callers Club and the RPM committee meeting at a service station meeting room near Leicester. That proved to be exciting.

Two dates for the later on. On November 20th the Northampton Caller Practice group will be hosting the meeting, on a Saturday, instead of a Sunday at an RCA. We are planning a full day of workshops, including one with Terry McCann, for callers and Cuers plus an evening Dance to be called by Terry plus Cuers. We are just working on a suitable venue. Next year we are hosting the Czech Caller/Cuer exchange. Nothing more has been decided as yet but it will be an afternoon and evening with our Czech visitors being supported by a UK Caller and Cuer.

At present we are finalising arrangements for the Callers School to be held at Milton Keynes in November.

We have also reviewed the Councils Jobs descriptions and hopefully this will be printed in News and Views so that you can all see what a wide range of work the Council Members do on your behalf.

And I must tell you about the meeting the Council had in the depth of all that snow in January. We ended up doing it by e-mail. The advantage of this of course was that no one had to spend money on fuel, nobody had to waste time travelling, I didn't have to feed everyone and wash up afterwards, I didn't even need to sweep the kitchen floor. The minutes were a doddle, all cut a paste, and no one could accuse me of misinterpreting their words. We took the same amount of time we normally take for a meeting and apparently we were all dressed in our PJs. Brilliant.

The Council has been a very tight knit group and I want to thank them all for their friendship. Dennis

Thompson, who is retiring today, has attended every Council meeting and has been very loyal and hard working and we shall miss him from the meetings. And I want to just say how much I personally have enjoyed working with Walt during the last three years. It's been a roller coaster ride at times but we've had fun getting to know each other. There may be some who won't agree but I believe he has been a good President. He has shown firm leadership and in all the controversial ups and downs he has actually been proved right in his decision making. He feels like family to me and I shall miss him a lot. I'm sure we all wish him the very best in his new life in Germany and in his forthcoming marriage to Julie. A formidable calling team, watch out Germany.

Now I am looking forward to working with a new President and three new members of the Council, once you've all voted them in of course. It looks like being yet another busy year.

**WERCA REP. Dick Taylor** – WERCA held their usual 3 meetings. At the February meeting there was a presentation by Lynn Holloway on digital music. They repeated their all day Multi-Caller workshop and dance in March with 13 callers and will be doing the same in March this year. It will be their 11th event. There will be a Brian Hotchkies seminar in June. Attendees at meetings totalled 45 compared to 74 last year. They operate a dance diary for the area which includes Devon, Cornwall and the West Midlands. Dick thanked the committee and the local dancers for their support.

**WARCA: Stephen Moore** WARCA had our four scheduled meetings this year, which included hosting CCGB in May which proved to be very interesting with Susie Kelly (Hon CCGB Secretary) bringing some of her newer club callers and presenting Contra dancing aimed at Plus dancers. Trevor Day did a presentation on setting up a Loop System for the hard of hearing. The Basic dance programme has been split into two parts aiming at making it easier for non-speaking English dancers to comprehend.

At our meetings we have discussed various ideas for future meetings, i.e various types of music; are we using the correct technique for new dancers; getting dancing into schools; using Lap-tops-vs-Vinyl. Unfortunately our venue, the Church Hall, is now being used every Sunday 9.15 to 10.15 by the Church to encourage new patrons, and access is not available until 10.30am. The new Vicar will not agree to starting his sessions earlier or cancelling them for our four meetings a year. If this new system does not work, we will look for an alternative venue. He thanked the committee members who have served for several years.

**LHCRC Alan Covacic** This year the paid up

membership dropped from 18 last year down to 11 as a result of which the Callers Club subsidy of £60 saved them from losing money. There remains about £30 in the kitty at year end. They try to have a dance following the callers meeting and this helped to defray costs by about £54. There were 6 meetings this year but there will be a discussion at the AGM as to how many and where the meetings should be. The 6 meetings were spread over 3 venues with varying degrees of attendance at each. At present there is no commitment to meetings for the next year. They are fortunate to have Trevor Day attending with the Record Swap Shop and also with CALLERLAB updates. They are fortunate also to have Paul Bristow as a member.

#### **NARCA: Trevor Day**

There were four meetings (February, April, June and August.) in the NARCA area. The November meeting was cancelled through lack of numbers attending the short meeting. We covered Equipment set ups and PAT testing, Formation management, using computers as a music source. There was a SDCCGB meeting hosted by us in Sheffield.

Chris and I have visited all the Regional Callers Assemblies during the year including their AGM's, GSI UK and also CALLERLAB and ECTA Conventions. 687 record sales were sold throughout year as they were taken around the country to RCAs, to GSI UK and Germany for ECTA 50th anniversary.

**TREASURER: Colin Haines** It has been a fairly quiet year. There was an over all deficit of £406.88. Membership subs are slightly up but interest from the bank is well down at .08% . We bank with Alliance & Leicester and after much discussion in Council it had been decided there would be little benefit in changing to another bank.

He was glad to inform the meeting that RCA grants raised from £60 to £100 for those who wished to claim it.

There had been 2 donations during the year, one of £2000 to GSI and one of £1000 to the RPM committee. Even though we ended up with a deficit it has been agreed in Council that we should be using our funds for the purpose to which we are committed

- Paul Amor queried the reason for SDCCGB donating £2000 to GSI when he had been informed that all GSI Schools are self funding.
- Walt replied that no GSI school has ever run in the black. Last year in spite of our £2000 donation and a £1000 private donation and the funds raised by the festival, Kim Curlee still had to pay out about £3000 from her own pocket.
- Paul Amor suggested that if the School had been in a place more accessible to more dancers there would have been a smaller loss. Walt did not

think so.

**Round Dance Council Representative** Teresa Hart's report was read by Matt Baldry: The newly formed Round Dance Council (RDC) have now had their first 2 meetings. Our aim is to make this group a truly successful arena for leader and cuer expertise with the emphasis on education. The RDC has appointed Shirley Cox as Chair but she was unable to attend today. Matt Baldry is Vice Chair, Nick Wright is librarian, Paul Hart is responsible for our Finances with Alex Stillwell supporting Training.

Our meetings thus far have provided a forum of discussion whereby we are now working on providing a Welcome Cuer Pack to support that which is already sent out to new callers, an itinerary of what is contained within the library which Nick has inherited, ordered and received new Roundalab DVDs, commenced on a carefully thought out training schedule. Additionally we have made contact with all the known cuers and keen round dancers in the UK and have had a good dialogue with many in the hope that this will bolster our numbers moving forward. Many of these conversations have contributed to our aims and objectives'.

There is a lot promising activity, we have a really good atmosphere and everyone appears to be enjoying this approach. We plan to provide regular features in N&V which we hope will interest cuers and callers alike and we have some space on the BAASDC web site. We plan to organise our meetings to coincide with the callers as often as feasibly possible which will hopefully unify our efforts within the square and round dance world. I look forward to the year ahead.

- Steven Moore asked where the Round Dance Council fits within Callers Club. The only mention in the Constitution is for a Cuers Representative.
- Walt assured the meeting that the Round Dance Council are part of Callers Club. Their members pay the same dues as callers.
- Stephen proposed that the Council look at writing some form of Charter in the same way that the RCAs have one.
- Walt commented that they are still in the organising phase as yet.
- Paul Amor asked whether the RDC was open to members and non members. Walt said that they were Members and Dancer Members of Callers Club.
- Paul again asked if it was open to general round dancers.
- Matt answered that whilst at present not all members of the RDC are members of Callers Club. They have been given leeway during the setting up stage, and eventually all council

members will become Members and Dancer Members of Callers Club.

- Paul Amor said he wouldn't like to see a representative who is not a full member sitting on the Council, He also asked how the RDC was being financed.
- Walt replied that up to now they have been self funding.
- Paul asked how the RDC is being run similarly to ECTA.
- Walt explained that within the ECTA organisation there are several secondary councils who represent Cuers, Cloggers, Contras etc. on the main ECTA Board.
- Paul commented that as at present the Cuers Council is not mentioned in the constitution maybe the new Council will look into ensuring that it is.

**PRO, Dennis Thompson** reported that he continued to field phone calls and emails from visitors to this country who want to dance. He offers one or two choices of clubs they could dance at. He also gets calls from people wishing to learn square dancing. He is also a voice of opinion on Council decisions and he visits RCAs whenever possible.

**VICE PRESIDENT Keith Lovegrove** had not sent a report.

#### **Membership Officer, Trevor Day**

- Current membership is 117 Full including 6 honorary members plus 11 Associates. We unfortunately have lost 2 members this last year Jack Oliver passing away in July 2009 and Laurie Bloor passing away in November 2009. and Colin Turton who was a previous member. Final numbers last year were 123 Full plus 15 Associate Members.
- PPL bulk licence is in the process of being renewed with a similar numbers of licences to last year. The rules for music right has changed and from April 2010 a number of previously exempt groups will lose their exemption and require a PPL licence. Also PRS (the Performing Right Society) and PPL will be offering a joint licence which will be applicable to anyone not performing at a fixed venue that has individual PPL and PRS licences. However these licences are only required for those using music that is commercially available in UK (as vinyl, CD, or digital download) that has its rights allocated to PPL and PRS. I am waiting for the current application with PPL to be issued then I will inquire further particularly of the PRS element as there have been a number of members that have been approached directly by PRS during the last year. The differences between the two licences are that PRS money goes to songwriters,

composers and music publishers whereas PPL money goes to performers and record companies.

In 2009 Chris and I represented SDCCGB at the CALLERLAB Convention in Kansas City and will be representing SDCCGB at the 2010 convention next month in Niagra Falls. I continue to be the Overseas Committee vice-chairman for England.

- Susie asked whether it was true that mostly the PRS License is held by the hall we work in rather than ourselves. Trevor agreed that this was so.
- Matt Baldry described an experience of his brother-in-law who runs a disco. He has been approached for a combined PRS and PPL lifetime licence depending on the number of records used. His is for 100,000 records costing a one off payment of £2500.
- Trevor has decided not to go too deeply into the PRS connection with PPL until after the PPL license has been delivered.
- We will have to approach all of our square dance record producers to find out if any of them have transferred their royalty rights to PPL or PRS. We shall need to get signed statements from each of them so that we can present documentation when the need arises. The only people then affected will be anyone doing Rounds, Lines and maybe Contras using commercially produced music.
- Steven Moore asked Trevor what was the present position of Dancer members. Trevor told him that the only dancer members we have at present are those who dance with the Cuers' section. They pay on a one off basis of £1.50 when they attend. There are no dancer members on the roster. RCAs decide for themselves whether they charge dancers who attend meeting to be physical bodies to be moved around.
- Sandra Higson added that the Round Dance Council may wish to have dancer members on a different basis to the casual drop in dancers which had come before. This will be something the two councils will need to discuss.
- Sandra also commented that, as it had not yet been mentioned, she had resigned as Cuers rep on the 8th September as the Round Dance Council was being formed.

#### **ORDINARY MEMBER, Gene Turner who is also Editor of News and Views and Webmaster**

**The ordinary member** reported that nothing out of the ordinary happened this year. Unfortunately his work schedule made it impossible to attend Council Meetings but now this has changed so he hoped to maintain better attendance this coming year. The Ordinary Member is there to liaise between the general membership and the Council.

**The Editor** reported he had created 119 pages, Paul

Bristow contributed at least a dozen pages. He was notified of meeting dates and special events by the RCAs and accounts of some of the RCA presentations were also sent in. Gene requested more articles from the membership. Choreography, interesting things happening whilst calling, anecdotes, anything of interest to other members. How is recruiting, and retention, attendance at dances? He looks forward to contributions from the Cuers. Last year Paul Amor suggested some things to go on the web site. It's only taken eleven and a half months for this to happen. The website has a members only section which has all the past issues of News and Views since Gene has been Editor in 2003. He would appreciate any comments, constructive or otherwise, on the newsletter or the web site.

**RPM committee Chairman, Linda Gill, sent a report** which was read by Susie Kelly. I apologise that I am not with you today; I am honouring a long-standing commitment. My thanks to Susie Kelly for agreeing to read this report.

RPM Committee is a Joint Working Party between BAASDC and SDCCGB - we take our authority from both Councils. Our primary aim is to Keep Square Dancing Alive; through the recruitment of new dancers, the opening of new Clubs and assisting Callers who are prepared to do either or both of these.

In the past year we have produced useful articles which have appeared in LSD, News & Views and on the BAASDC website. We have produced 2 new "How to" Booklets bringing the total to seven; others are in the pipeline.

We have published a report on the evaluation of the recruitment undertaken in Autumn 2008 and Spring 2009 and are currently evaluating Autumn 2009 recruitment.

At this time last year, we were in the process of allocating our recruitment fund (£4,300 from the 'Awards for All' Lottery Fund and £2,000 from Club donations.) Members of RPM have worked very hard, giving of their own time, and without expenses, to ensure that all the money was spent in the furtherance of Square and Round Dancing.

As you are aware, our initial objective was for ten New Clubs and ten New Callers. We developed a contact list of established and trainee Callers, but, despite our entreaties only three Callers were prepared to open a new Club; none of whom was a new Caller. Therefore, when it became obvious that we were not going to achieve our objective, we went back to the Lottery Fund and sought an extension of time, and permission to use some of the grant to rejuvenate existing Clubs.

When all the money had been spent, we were pleased

to report to the Lottery Fund that five New Clubs had opened and that we had helped 36 existing clubs in their recruitment of beginners. These efforts resulted in 447 New Square and Round Dancers. RPM were also able to assist 7 New Callers - 2 of whom, Philip Mee and Paul Radcliffe received £250 Scholarships for GSI. We believe that Philip used his money for accommodation at GSI and Paul used his for equipment.

'Awards for All' have told us they are happy with our results. However, we should all be aware that during the period of the Lottery spend, at least nine Clubs left BAASDC meaning that, in spite of our five new Clubs, the total number of BAASDC Clubs reduced by four.

At your AGM last March we reported that SDCCGB had informed us that the new callers in training would need another 12 to 18 months before they could consider opening new club. However, at the present time, we only know of one new caller (Paul Radcliffe) who hopes to open a new club this year.

Dear Callers, please remember that to be able to achieve our objective of more new square dancers, we need YOU. If you have no spare evening in which to open a new club to recruit beginners, perhaps you could consider doing something during the day. We have identified U3A as a potential source of dancers. We have also negotiated free membership of BAASDC for a year for all new Clubs opened specifically to recruit Beginners. Susie Kelly can give you information about both these initiatives.

BAASDC & SDCCGB have asked RPM to continue our efforts in 2010. As a result, we have launched "The Big Push" for September 2010. The aim of this initiative is to get all Mainstream Clubs, nation wide, recruiting new square dancers. This will be backed by national and local advertising and publicity for which we have launched a Photographic Competition, with cash prizes, in an attempt to obtain some decent promotional photographs. We look forward to seeing your entries.

To help fund "The Big Push" RPM have initiated a Grand Cash Draw; we hope you will buy plenty of tickets, which are available at your Club. We are making a further application to the 'Awards for All' Lottery Fund. The London & Home Counties Federation are holding a fund raising dance on our behalf and we hope other Federations may follow suite. At our request BAASDC have donated £2,000 towards our work. We asked SDCCGB to match this donation of £2000. However at their recent meeting your Council were only able to agree upon a donation of £1,000. Their reason was that more than this would deplete their funds which are needed for running Callers and Cuers schools each year, at a

cost of upwards of £2000 a time.

In our RPM Committee report to the BAASDC AGM on 29th November 2009 we asked that BAASDC make the recruitment of New Dancers their primary objective for the future. This motion was proposed, seconded and agreed.

RPM have also asked SDCCGB to put the bulk of their own financial resources behind Callers who are prepared to either open a new Club or to rejuvenate an existing Club by taking on Beginners. This proposal was rejected by your Council because (I quote) "Our funds are for Caller and Cuer training and therefore must be at the disposal of all our members equally who choose to take up training." We will be reviewing our proposition prior to discussions with your new Council.

**Walt Burr** presented the following awards describing the reasons for the Council decisions.

**THE HARRY PRESTON AWARD** is presented to the Caller or Cuer who the Council feels has made the most improvement over the last year. There were a lot on nominations this year and the council had to make a very tough decision. This year it was presented to Matt Baldry.

**THE TOMMY CAVANAGH AWARD.** This the first time this award has been presented. It was given to Callers Club by Tommy Cavanagh's partner in his memory. After much debate within the Council it was decided to make it the equivalent if the CALLERLAB Milestone Award, the highest award we can present. They came up with very tough criteria. The person who received this award should have made more than one major contribution to the UK square dance activity, both in Squares and Rounds. We should expect those contributions to be above and beyond what we would see from the average caller or cuer. How many club nights or Saturday dances they call will not be taken into consideration. How long they have been calling is also not considered. When nominations were asked for we looked at what they had done above and beyond these things. A major consideration was that these contributions had to have been made without thought of monetary gain. We received many nominations and after long consideration we came up with one name.

This person has given many years of service to the UK Square Dance activity. Their unselfish contributions, generosity of spirit, advice, encouragement - a lot of us have been on the receiving end of this person's attitude and adaptability. It would take all afternoon to recount all this person's accomplishments. It was presented to Susie Kelly.

Susie thanked everyone for the honour accorded by this award. She said that she worked along side several teams of wonderful people: the GSI committee, the RPM committee and of course the Callers club council, who all work just as hard. The one person who she has to thank above all for his support and hard work is Simon whose name should also be on the award. He is the wind beneath her wings.

### **Resignation of the Present Council**

Walt asked Alan Covacic to take his place as temporary chairman whilst the present council stands down.

Alan thanked Walt for his contribution over the last three years and wished him luck in his future life in Germany.

There were a nominations for Keith Lovegrove as President, Lynn Holloway as Vice President, Teresa Hart as Round Dance Council Rep and Matt Baldry as Ordinary Member and Gene Turner to become PRO. The rest of the Council was unchanged. They had all been nominated by Dennis Thompson and Steven Moore proposed that they be voted in en bloc. The proposal was voted upon and accepted with no objections or abstentions

Steven Moore proposed a vote of thanks to the out going Council This was seconded by Alan Covacic.

### **The 2010 Council now stands as:**

President - Keith Lovegrove  
Vice President - Lynn Holloway  
Treasurer - Colin Haines  
Secretary - Susie Kelly  
Membership Officer - Trevor Day  
PRO - Gene Turner  
Round Dance Council Rep. - Teresa Hart  
Ordinary member - Matt Baldry

In the absence of President Keith Lovegrove, Lynn Holloway as Vice President took the chair.

### **Motions for which notice has been given**

There were no Motions for which notice had been given.

### **Any Other Business**

- John Stallard asked what was happening about Work Permits now that Keith Lovegrove has stopped issuing them. Walt explained that the regulations are so complex and the cost so exorbitant that Callers Club can no longer afford to do this. We would now have to apply through a specialist solicitor and the cost could be as high as £650. This is why we are now seeing more European callers coming to the UK.
- Alan Evans gave a brief history of how Callers Club came to be involved. He had worked in the Immigration Department and had been in an

ideal position to arrange for us to be able to issue Work permits in the days when they were free. There is now an expensive risk for those getting caught without a permit. Lynn expressed concern that the sudden dropping off of applications might trigger alarm bells with the Immigration Dept., particularly for those US citizens who have been coming over regularly.

- Lynn also warned anyone going to Canada or the US to perform, be sure and get a music license as they are getting red hot on this.
- Stephen wondered if the obtaining of licenses appears in the constitution. Simon stated that this only appears in the mission statement at the front of News and Views.
- Simon asked about the new regulations regarding radio mikes, brought to our attention by Ron Sullivan. Our short range devices may not be affected but might need to have a new crystal to convert to a new frequency. Lynn Holloway promised he would look into this and report back through News and Views.
- Dave Woolerton questioned whether it was necessary for our membership subscriptions to be raised automatically every year. This automatic rise had been decided upon at an AGM some years ago. Dave proposed that this decision be rescinded now that our venue costs have reduced considerably since moving away from the school at Potters Bar and also with the reductions in the number of meetings from six to four. He suggested that the fees should be reduced - retrospectively for this year - and then

reviewed annually.

- Lynn Holloway announced that as PAT testing of our electrical equipment was a legal requirement the Council has asked each RCA to arrange for PAT testing to be carried out annually. This will be free of charge to the membership, so professional electrician bills will be paid by the Treasurer. It was advised that members should pre-book in their pieces of equipment in so that only a reasonable amount of work should be carried out in that day. This is an expensive exercise so of great financial benefit to the membership.
- Stephen recounted the history of the original decision and suggested that now the major cost in the Accounts is Training rather than hall hire, perhaps the savings achieved by the changes of venue should be spread among the total membership.
- Sandra suggested that perhaps the whole membership should be informed before this decision is made.
- Simon noted that we have probably been remiss during the last couple of years in that we have not offered the next year's fee for ratification.

The Council will look into the proposal to rescind the annual rise bearing in mind the additional benefits described above. If necessary an EGM can be arranged - perhaps at WERCA in September - to make the change.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm