



Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probus Club

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Minutes of Meeting held on: 3rd April 2024 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: President Neil welcomed all the members and visitor Raymond Corr.

APOLOGIES:

George Bird; Bruce Jamieson; Andrew Jones; Tony McKerron; Donald Macdonald; Dale MacPherson

ALMONERS REPORT

Ross Jarvie reported that Alasdair Calder had passed on. His funeral has been fixed for Thursday 18th April at Falkirk Crematorium at 1.45pm. The family have requested that the funeral be colourful, preferably with some tartan.

Neil paid tribute to Alasdair who had been a keen member for a long time although he had been forced to miss recent meetings as he was caring for his wife (who is now in a care home).

Dale MacPherson has been in hospital with pneumonia although he is now home.

MATTERS ARISING

Neil gave an update on the TV. There was to be a meeting later that day to discuss positioning etc.

AOCB

John Aitken had obtained a more modern PA system on loan that he wanted to try out at today's meeting. The Rose Club had also offered the use of their one, but it involved a fair bit of setting up each week. There would be some discussion at the next meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

David Elliot then introduced the speaker for the day – Marianne Pattison. A retired teacher, Marianne and her husband had explored a fair amount of the world after her retirement at the lower end of the luxury market. In 2019, together with another couple, they moved up-market by taking a luxury cruise to see the Northern Lights. It turned out to be the Cruise from Hell as the ship lost power while close inshore during a storm. A Mayday was called and up to 500 passengers of the 1300 on board were lifted by helicopter during the best part of a day before a lull in the storm allowed tugs to get lines on to the ship and she was towed to safety. Marianne showed pictures and video of life on board.

Marianne paid tribute to the crew and company management who had worked to the concept that the customer comes first. Despite their obvious terror, they had risked everything to tie down the avalanche of furniture cascading around the restaurant. The

company had been extremely generous by refunding the entire cost of the cruise, plus offering them more compensation in the form of additional events. The Pattisons had not been put off and had been on several cruises with the company since.

VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was given by Neil who paid tribute to speaker's matter-of-fact documentation of what was obviously a very frightening experience. He was supported by the members in the usual manner.

On Marianne's request, a donation will be made to the West Lothian Foodbank.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th April and will take the form of a Games Session.

Chris Collen

Secretary

05/04/2024