



Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probus Club

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Minutes of Meeting held on: 17th September 2025 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: President George Bird welcomed all the members and visitor John Crawford Jnr. He also announced 3 new members, Meg McCormick, Clare Pollock and Margaret Rutherford who were warmly welcomed by the members.

APOLOGIES:

Bill Duncan; Neil Edwards; Allan Halley; Jim & Dora Kelly; Donald Macdonald; Tony McKerron; David Olwa; David Robertson;

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

George asked how many people actually read the minutes and nearly half the members admitted to it. The secretary has his doubts as only two people pointed out the typo in his intimation by referring to Blood Biles rather than Bikes!

ALMONERS REPORT

Ross reported that Phil Bullen was having a tough time and was not up to attending Probus at the moment.

Gary had no specific report to make but mentioned that his wife's uncle who was in his 101st year found the Canal Society tea room his 'Happy Place'.

MATTERS ARISING

We have registered for the St Michael's Church Christmas Tree event this year after our very successful initiation in 2024

We had also set up negotiations with the Gala Day Committee to see if we can get slightly more notice of the entrants in each category for the Arches.

AOCB

There being no other competent business, Bob McCaig told a couple of stories that sent up some of the longer serving members of the Club.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Stuart Smith then proceeded to introduce the speakers. The advertised speaker, Phil Dodsworth had been unable to make the meeting. However, Blood Bikes Scotland had fielded two very acceptable substitutes, Ian McKay and Dave Tooth who proceeded to inform the club as to the history of the Blood Bikes organisation. Completely voluntary, they provide invaluable assistance to the NHS throughout South East Scotland, by transporting essential medical items on demand between hospitals, healthcare facilities and patients' homes, supporting both primary and secondary healthcare services. They have 16 bikes, 5 cars and over 200 volunteers.

No charge is made to the NHS and they estimate they have saved them over £352,000 during last year.

Although all their riders have advanced qualifications, they have no exemptions and rely on the goodwill of drivers to allow them to slip through heavy traffic.

VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was given by David Elliot who highlighted the fact that the benefit to the NHS could not just be measured in monetary terms but also in reliability. He was supported by the members in the usual manner.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 1st October when Paul Burrell would be talking about his 50 years of hillwalking, no doubt supported by numerous pictures.

Chris Collen

Secretary

17/09/2025