



Linlithgow and Bo'ness Probus Club

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 at Linlithgow Rose Club

WELCOME: President Jim Hannan welcomed all the members and guest Les Konec.

APOLOGIES: Bill Duncan, Neil Edwards, Alan Hannan, Murdoch Kennedy, Bert Lawson, Gregor MacDonald, John MacLean and Aileen MacLean.

ALMONERS REPORT: Happily, there was nothing to report.

MATTERS ARISING: The President indicated that the post of Secretary was still vacant. Members were urged to consider taking on the duties, which are not onerous, even if only until the AGM.

George Bird reminded members that, regarding the anniversary lunch on 30 September, menu choices and payments were required that day. Members attending should assemble at the Rose Club function room (not in the lounge) at 12.00 for 12.30 where they could sit anywhere not bearing a name tag.

AOCB: A plaque had been put up at the Rose Club door, to mark that it was the venue for meetings of the Probus. The President thanked John Aitken for all his work in designing, procuring and attaching the plaque.

The President introduced Judy and Jackie who were publicising the Banking Hub. It was now located in the Vennel. They informed members that it was run by the Post Office and could carry out all day-to-day banking including issuing cash, as well as hosting an ATM outside. Foreign currency was not available.

SPEAKER: George Bird introduced the speaker, Kenny Baird of the Bo'ness Speed Hill Climb. Kenny gave an excellent talk, describing the origins of Speed Climbs in the early 1900s, how public roads at Beecraigs and Parkley Craigs had once been used and how in the 1930s the Bo'ness venue attracted crowds of 5,000 to 10,000 spectators, to see such drivers as Speedy McCready (who lived to over 100) driving at over 90 mph on the short and narrow course. Racing resumed after the war, with visits from drivers such as Jim Clark, Jackie Stuart and Stirling Moss. Racing in the 50s attracted crowds of 15,000 to 20,000, but rising speeds (over 120 mph) and a housing development proposed on land hosting part of the track put a stop to it, although it restarted on a more limited scale in 2007, generating to date over £47,000 for charity.

VOTE OF THANKS: After answering questions, Kenny was thanked by George Bird on behalf of the members for an interesting and informative talk, well delivered.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be the 50th Anniversary Lunch on 30th September.

David Elliot

Acting minute secretary 16 September 2026