Linlithgow & Bo'ness Probus Club

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 November 2026, at Linlithgow Rose Club.

WELCOME

President Jim Hannan welcomed members and the speaker, Mr Roy Johnstone. Two new members were welcomed: Herbert Fairley and David Stevenson. Jim went on to note the sad passing of Chris Collen, who had been an excellent Secretary to the Club for many years, showing dedication and a keen sense of humour. A card from the club was handed to Liz Collen.

APOLOGIES

John Carswell, Bill Duncan, Bill Duthie, David Hale, Bert Lawson, Bob McCaig, David Olwa. David Olwa had decided to return to Uganda on a permanent basis. Members could send their best wishes to David at davidolwa@blueyonder.co.uk.

ALMONERS' REPORT

Gary Withnell reported that Allan MacLeod had been in hospital for nearly two weeks, but was being well-supported by his family.

MATTERS ARISING

The new badges were now available. Members could leave them in the box at the end of the meeting or take them home each time, but they should be worn during meetings.

Murdoch Kennedy was thanked for the article in The Black Bitch magazine on the Club's 50th anniversary lunch.

The menu for the Christmas lunch had been circulated. Members should provide their choices and payment to John Aitken by 25 November.

AOCB

The *Christmas Tree at St Michael's* team was meeting at 10.15 at Linlithgow Golf Club on Wednesday 18 November to plan this year's decoration. All those interested in helping would be welcome.

The annual carol concert in aid of Linlithgow Day Care Centre would be held at St Michael's RC Church on Friday 4 December. Tickets were £5 for adults, children free, at the book shop or at the door.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

The President introduced the speaker, Roy Johnstone. Roy had spoken to us many times before but was now winding down. In acknowledgement of the date, Roy spoke of War and Remembrance; the human cost and horror of war; how a knowledge of history shows how easily war can be triggered; how it is so much easier to start a war than to end it; how unpredictable they were, and how 'decent' people could do appalling things. Roy then covered the main events of both World Wars, with his description of global events broken up by personal accounts, including those touching his own family.

A two minute silence was observed during the talk.

VOTE OF THANKS

After a number of questions Bruce Jamieson gave the vote of thanks for what was an absorbing and moving account.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on 25 November, when in recognition of St Andrews Day, members would be entertained by Cockleroy.

David Elliot
Acting minute secretary
11 November 2026