

British Ladies Club, Luxembourg – Annual General Meeting

Date: 27/09/2023

Place: Janet Macey (Treasurer)'s home in Belair.

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Carrie(Advocating for Think Pink Charity) Jade Bajai, Dawn Butler, Jemma Hurley, Janet Macey, Georgina Bryant, Claudine Mehring, Wendy Casey, Wendy dunning-barker, Lara - , Victoria Hodgson, Iryna -, Moira Hogg, Beth Park, Veronique Schiel , Alison - ,

Online: Amy Walker, Muriel Nunes, Tayo Williams, Freda

Proxy Votes for Committee: Lesley Powell, Karen McEwan, Lynda Jacob, Enid Isaac, Rose Flammant, Paula McSherry, Pamela Rattigan, Sue Hartley, Laura Donjon, Doreen Gardner, Clare Jenner, Jill Cresswell.

Minutes of the AGM 2023

We start with our chair welcoming those who have attended in person and online.

Jade called the meeting to order at 7.37 pm confirming the Quorum, we meet the 5% to validate the votes during this meeting.

Our Chair would now like to pass the motion to accept the minutes of the meeting from the financial year of 2021-2022, Dawn accepts this motion and Victoria seconds, motion carried and the previous minutes have been accepted.

Our Chair reads her Chair report:

CHAIR REPORT AGM 27 September 2023

Welcome to this AGM, which concludes our FY 2022/23. Thank you to all those who have joined, who have submitted proxy votes, who have nominated charities, and who continue to engage with our community. Also, a special thank you to Janet for allowing us to use her lovely home for the occasion.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to every member of the Committee. I am fortunate to assume the Chair position with a full Committee of motivated people that form a strong team and that are a pleasure to work with. Thanks to Dawn Butler, who served as interim Chair and provided me with a great handover, alongside former Chair Victoria Hodgson. I would also like to thank our dedicated area reps who run their own activities like clockwork. Lastly, I would like to thank the British Ambassador, Fleur Thomas, and everyone at the Embassy for their continued support.

Now, a short summary of the past year, focusing on the highlights. On 15th June 2022, the BLC marked Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, with a tea party at the home of Cynthia Albrecht-Lelliott. Our Kids' events continued to be a huge success, whether it was the Halloween Event on 22nd October in Strassen or the Christmas Party on 3rd December, for which tickets sold out in a matter of days. On 7th December, we held our annual Christmas lunch, made even more joyful by the Carpe Diem choir (whom we have already booked for this year's lunch on December 13th, again at the lovely Parc Alvisse Hotel). The raffle at this event raised EUR 645 for our chosen charities.

I assumed the Chair position in February of this year and began by experimenting with new types of events: a Latino Jam dance class for International Women's Day in March, and a BLC 5km run. March also played host to our annual quiz (the Jacob's Crackers took victory), as well as the opening event of our exhibition at Luxembourg City Museum. It was an excellent evening, attended

by Luxembourg City Mayor Lydie Polfer and Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, Danial Shaikh.

May 13th played host to our annual Car Boot sale, giving us a chance to contribute to the circular economy. Thanks to Enid Isaac for her diligent organisation of this event which raised over EUR 3,200 for our chosen charities, with 95 cars arriving to sell their pre-loved belongings. (N.B. the 30th car-boot Sale is booked for 18th of May 2024, and promises to be bigger and better than ever). In June 2023, the BLC participated in a highly successful event at St George's School, coordinated by the British Embassy, to mark the Coronation of King Charles. The BLC contributed with a kids' crafts table, as well as a bake sale (I was astounded by the overwhelming response from our members and the fabulous cakes that we received). We raised a sum just over EUR 300, which was donated to the King's chosen charity, the Duke of Edinburgh program.

Over the course of the year, our 'bread and butter' activities included; coffee mornings, newcomers' events, area meet ups, lunches, Zigzag and Pipsqueaks, monthly hikes, weekly tennis, and Mindful Movement lessons, have been ongoing, catering to a whole range of interests. I have endeavoured to extend our outreach - we now have a LinkedIn page and an Instagram account, which has garnered 390 followers since February. We have also had excellent media coverage from Delano (including being featured in its prestigious Annual Expat Guide), the Chronicle, ARA City Radio, RTL, and more... Looking ahead, I have set myself five objectives: - Expand membership (from 238 today) and continue to enhance our visibility - Cost control - Better understand the wishes of our members in terms of events - Streamline the membership process - Outreach to our area reps Thank you for your trust in me.

I will give you my best. Jade

A motion has been passed to accept the Chairs report, Victoria accepts this motion and Georgina seconds, all in favour, agreed, motion carried.

Our Chair hands over to our Treasurer for the Treasurers report.

Treasurer report - AGM 27th September 2023

The BLC accounts for the year ended 31st May 2023 – (copies sent by email, should you have any questions please contact the Treasurer)

The full audit was carried out by Bishen Jacmohone FCCA. The club carried forward funds on 31 May 2023 of Eur 37,272 representing the worth of the club, equivalent to bank balances totalling Eur 37,544 and posted a loss of Eur 1,976.

The internal rules of the BLC from 2010 state that the club aims to have an operating reserve of Eur 15,000 and there remains Eur 17,097 in the savings account which received interest at 1.20% for part of the year. The current interest rate is 3.4%.

Review of the BLC accounts at the end of May 2023, we had 238 members compared to the 248 members at the end of May 2022, a decrease of 4%. Of these members we have 2 honorary, 58 digital and 178 full members. The balance between digital and full membership has swung back towards full membership with an 8% increase from last year.

The three factors which contribute to the running cost of the club (as opposed to the fund raising activities) are:-

1. Membership Income & associated costs - Income from membership subscriptions for the year was Eur 8,010 a decrease of 13% from the prior year due. The costs associated with membership (which represents Newsletter printing and postage costs) were Eur 6,723 a small increase of Eur 178 on 2022.

2. Advertising revenue recovered to Eur 734, an increase of 26% against last year.

3. Management and administration costs at Eur 3,782 have increased from the previous year due mainly to higher depreciation charges relating to the Editor's computer purchased in June 2022; the

purchase of an external hard drive for backing-up the membership data and higher running costs of the committee mainly due to many longtime departing members.

In summary, this year the surplus profit from the membership subscriptions of Eur 1,287 (8010 less 6723) together with the advertising revenue of Eur 734 did not cover the increased management and administration costs of the club. Therefore, the deficit of the running of the club of Eur 1,761 (1287+734-3782) must be the focus of the committee in the following 2023/24 year.

Charity funds raised in 2021/22, paid in 2022/23 Payments were made in November 2022 of Eur 5,000 to our chosen charities.

Donations made: Eur 2,500 to RYSE asbl, Luxembourg

Eur 2,500 to Nuture the Border, UK

In addition, during this club year we paid Eur 100 to Autisme Luxembourg, Eur 100 to RNLi and EUR 300 to DofE.

Charities monies raised in 2022/23 = Eur 5,087

Car Boot Sale in May 2023 Eur 3,257

Christmas lunch raffle Eur 645

Other charity income Eur 1,185

Donations to be paid in October 2023

EUR 2,200 to ALA – Association for Alzheimers, Luxembourg

EUR 2,200 UK charity to be decided at AGM.

This financial year the fund-raising has centred around the Car Boot Sale in May organised by Enid Isaac and her enthusiastic team. The favourable weather added to the conviviality of raising funds for the club and individual members who were able to up-recycle their unwanted possessions. At the Christmas lunch, the raffle also raised Eur 645 for our charities.

Financial Over-view

As mentioned in my opening statement the club made a deficit of Eur 1,976, which is wholly attributed to the loss of Eur 1,761 made in running the club. The purchase of computer equipment in the year, and an over-spend within the management and administration costs, not experienced in the previous 3 years, has led to the overspend. However, fund raising activities throughout the membership, has continued to promote our club spirit, represented by a very respectable donation of Eur 4,400 for the year.

Janet Macey Treasurer BLC treasurer@blc.lu 27 th September 2023

A motion has been passed to accept the Treasurer report, Wendy Dunning-Baker makes the motion and Wendy Casey seconds this, all in favour, agreed, motion carried.

We move on to our charities:

We need to vote on a new charity for the UK from the previous year as the charity selected was not a registered UK charity.

The charities nominated for the UK 2022/23 are as follows:

Asthma and Lung UK- 4 votes

Young minds UK- 11 Votes

Rewilding Britain -7 Votes

Rewilding Britain are the charity confirmed for the previous financial year 2022-2023

UK charities for the financial year of 2023-2024

Asthma and Lung UK- 3 votes

Young Minds UK- 11 Votes

Rewilding Britain- 8 Votes

Young Minds UK are the charity confirmed for the financial year 2023-2024

Luxembourg Charities nominated for the financial year 2023-2024

Objective Tiers Monde- 0 Votes

Association Luxembourgeoise de Diabète- 4 Votes

Medecins Sans Frontiers- 4 Votes

RYSE- 1 Vote

Think Pink- 13 Votes

The representative of Think Pink gave a short presentations on the charity activities in Luxembourg:

- 1 in 7/8 people will get breast cancer in their lifetime
- Treatment is good and prevention is getting improving but support is minimal. When treatment is finished the patient needs even more support as the mental load and fears of reoccurrence stays with them
- Think Pink provide talks in creches, mother and baby groups and hospitals in a bid to raise awareness to breast cancer and the support that is available to them
- October is traditionally Breast cancer awareness month. Think pink have many events throughout this month to raise awareness and funds for their charity to continue their support.
- Government funding is being cut, the majority of the funding relies on charities.
- Some of the activities Think Pink arrange are – Yoga, Coffee Mornings, Exercise classes.
- Men are also considered due to lose of their partner or who have breast cancer themselves.

Co – opt of the new members into the committee.

Jade Bajai – Chair

Jemma Hurley – Secretary

Amy Walker – Events Manager

Wendy makes the motion to accept the new committee, Janet seconds this motion, all in favour, agreed, Motion carried.

Discharge of the previous committee members

Dawn Butler – Editor and acting chair

Victoria makes the motion to discharge the previous committee members, Iryna seconds this, motion carried.

Victoria, on behalf of the club, would like to thank the committee of volunteers for all the hard work throughout the year.

The committee is now as follows:

Chair – Jade Bajai

Treasurer – Janet Macey

Secretary – Jemma Hurley/Gomes

Editor – Lara Klemencic

Vice Chair – Katy Clay

Membership Secretary – Katy Clay

PR Manager – Wendy Casey

Events Manager – Amy Walker

Kids co-ordinator – Georgina Bryant
Newcomers’ co-ordinator - Melanie MacCormack
Advertising Manager – Claudine Mehring

Wendy Dunning-Baker makes the motion to accept the new committee and Moira seconds this, all in favour, agreed, Motion carried.

Other business:

There is a question about the €17.000 in reserve and why we can't use the extra €2000 not legally required to be there for our charities which it was explained as we had a loss of over €1000 this year it is handy to have that little safety net of €2000 which is what we will try to keep it at going forward.

Another question raised was why do we only donate to 1 charity each instead of doing a number of them and donate smaller amounts, it was explained that we would like to donate a slightly larger amount to each charity to make a difference and we do donate small amounts throughout the year to other charities such as to the carol singers and Duke of Edinburgh awards this year for example.

A mention of thanks to Wendy Dunning Baker for her organisation of the tennis club, Wendy is looking for more members for the tennis club and more helpers. Claudine may organise beginner tennis lessons as she takes details to arrange this which could provide more players for the tennis club as the beginners could feed over to the original tennis club in time.

Lara has asked members to get more active in the club with events and newsletter recommendations.

The hiking group is also looking for more attendees. If anyone is wishing to join, changes to dates or times could be considered to bring in new hikers.

Meeting adjourned at 8.45pm.