

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Annual General Meeting

Croquet Pavilion, Leven Terrace

Friday 22nd June 2018

Minutes

The AGM was attended by 22 members who signed the register, and ca 8 visitors.

Apologies were sent by Patricia McLuckie, Mary Neilson, Councillor Rankin, Ian Carson, Graeme Cruickshank, Maureen Parnell and Yusef Samari

- The meeting was preceded by an opportunity to knock some croquet balls around, which was much appreciated.
- Refreshments were provided, and were very welcome.
- Displays of early maps of the Meadows, and of FOMBL projects in 2017-2018 were on show.
- Membership subs were collected and new members inscribed.
- Copies of the AGM papers were supplied to the members at the meeting.

The meeting started at 7.30pm

Chaired by Andy Devenport, who welcomed all present, and thanked the Croquet Club for providing the venue. He referred to the forthcoming Scottish Croquet Association Scottish Open event at the Club.

The *Minutes of the last AGM on 23 June 2017* proposed by Martin Hyman, seconded by Iain Black, and approved.

The *Minutes of the EGM on 7 December 2017* were amended, proposed by Jimmy Robertson. seconded by Margot Alexander, and approved.

The *Annual Report 2017-2018* was taken as read.

Jim Orr presented the *Treasurer's Report*, with a full explanation of the accounts.

The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Heather Goodare, seconded by Jimmy Robertson, and approved.

The Treasurer was thanked for all his work on the accounts.

The Convenor then read out the *names of the 12 standing trustees** and recommended that they be re-elected *en bloc* (list of trustees below).

Proposed by Margot Alexander, seconded by Alison Carr, and approved.

The members were asked if anyone would like to stand for election, or take on the editorship of the Fombl Newsletter.

Jimmy Robertson spoke on behalf of the Short Hole Golf Club and thanked FOMBL for its support with two projects; the purchase of new plates and work on restoring the Green Hut.

The Convenor on behalf of FOMBL thanked Jimmy and the members of the Golf Club for all their work.

William Hinchliffe was then invited to deliver an illustrated talk on the theme of "**Trees need Advocates**".

He started with a short survey of dying forests around the world, and reminded the audience that trees are a keystone species and play a vital role, not least in cities.

Edinburgh is fortunate in being one of the greenest cities in the UK – see the ESRI Greenspace map 2016 – but trees are disappearing and need champions.

New diseases and pests present a growing threat to their survival and the Forestry Commission has set up a Tree Alert portal which we are urged to support - see <https://www.opalexplorenature.org/>The Government has also appointed a National Tree Champion.

The talk ended on an optimistic note, with an account of how the endangered Catacol Whitebeam has been preserved and disseminated by Botanic Garden researchers.

- Questions ranged from individual cases of destroyed trees, to fines and the Council's powers to protect trees.

William was thanked for his fascinating and lively presentation.

The AGM meeting ended at 9.30pm

* Re-elected Trustees: Andy Devenport, Heather Goodare, Sarah Tolley, Alex Mann, Neil Roger, Joan Carter, Iain Black, Yusef Samari, Kaaren Haughton, Bridget Stevens, Jim Orr