

Hale and district



**Annual General Meeting 4 June  
2025  
Bowdon Rugby Club, Clay Lane,  
WA15 7AF**

**MINUTES**

The Annual General meeting started at 1.57 pm. There had been prior voting, and all the important documents had been circulated in advance. The attendance in person (notified after the meeting) was 142.

Our Chairman, David Zucker, welcomed us to the meeting, especially new Members. He was joined on the stage by Hugh Wolfson (acting as secretary for this meeting). Music was provided by Sophie Clarke and Tom Pieczora, mezzo-soprano and accompanist, by permission of the Royal Northern College of Music, before and after the AGM and during tea.

There had been about 25 apologies for absence, including Ginny Murray, Eileen Keddie and Neil Collins

**The Minutes of the 2024 AGM** had been posted on the Website and circulated in advance. Copies were available at the meeting. Their acceptance was proposed and seconded by Tony Woolf and Roger James. This was **RESOLUTION 5**. There had been 105 prior votes, all in favour. There being no questions about them, and no objections raised, the Minutes were accepted *nem.con.* by those present and the votes cast in advance.

**The Chairman's report for the year ending 31 March 2024:** This included some items from the Report and Accounts circulated in advance and posted on the Website. David had some remarks about Membership numbers and the need to keep recruiting new Members to compensate for those who had left us. At the official count date (31 March 2025) there were 987 members, compared to 862 last year, 5 had sadly died, and a

further number had not renewed by the count date. As a result of new members joining, the current membership is over 1000. The ethos of u3a is self-help and we always need more volunteers, in whatever capacity, we need everybody to contribute.

Our u3a is a force for good in our area.

David specially mentions Gill Homan and Sue Powers, retiring from service to Social and Outings over many years. As to the Committee, we thank Neil Collins and Hugh Wolfson, recently retired from the Committee, and also the current Committee.

Our Membership Secretary Joyce Thorley has done sterling work throughout the year. This is the end of Joyce's three year term, and David will complete three years in 2026. David Morris has been coopted, and is up for election this year.

There is a very healthy balance, partly due to receiving Norma Holt's legacy during the year. A part of this has been used to reduce the Membership fee and to abolish the £1 monthly meeting entrance fee, subject to a vote later in this meeting. There will also be some spend on our participation in the Altrincham Festival.

**The Trustees' Report and Accounts** had been circulated on the Website and also rather recently, and copies were available. David briefly delivered Eileen's note about them. Overall, Hale u3a finances are in a very healthy position with reserves of £81,070 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This is a significant increase on last year (£17,158) largely due to the donation from the estate of the late Norma Holt which was just under £60,000. Given the amount, an interest-earning account has been opened to manage the surplus whilst appropriate consideration is given to the best way to utilise the funds.

The use of BACS as a payment method is increasing steadily, whether this is to renew membership, pay for group activities or social events. This is our preferred payment method where possible. In the current renewals cycle for 25/26 approximately 64% of members renewed via BACS with 23% by cheque and 13% cash.

A big thank you to everyone who pays promptly when asked which makes the task much easier for those volunteers who are involved in managing finances whether that be treasurer, group leaders or event coordinators. A lot of time can be taken up with chasing people, amending errors or processing refunds and we appreciate the support of everyone to minimise this where possible.

Questions were invited from the floor. There being none, and no objections, the Accounts were accepted *nem. con.*

There had been some confusion in presenting the Agenda items to the membership but we hoped to resolve these at the meeting.

**RESOLUTION 1** Needed to be reworded, to clarify. The original proposal was to permit the Chairman and the Membership Secretary to stand for re-election for a second three-year term (contrary to the present Constitution). David dwelt on the difficulty of finding new people, so added a caveat that the second term should apply to all committee members, but that the Chairman could only stand beyond 3 years if no other candidate could be found. Revised wording: "All Members of the committee, as is the case for the Treasurer and Secretary, will have a fixed three year term, but may be reappointed for a further three year term.

However, the Chairman can only be reappointed if a successor can't be found, and that position would need to be open to new nominees, and come up for election each year after the first three year term, to a maximum of 6 years."

There had been 105 returned votes with only two saying No, and a show of hands at this AGM showed again a large Yes vote, well over the necessary quorum. Passed.

The Executive will circulate it to all members for approval before submitting to the Third Age Trust for approval and, in due course, amendment of the Constitution.

Given that RESOLUTION 1 had been passed, **RESOLUTION 2** could be voted on to approve Joyce Thorley's re-election as Membership Secretary.

The postal voting was 105 for, none against. There being no objections and a large show of hands, Joyce Thorley was re-elected as Membership Secretary

**RESOLUTION 3** To elect David Morris as Systems Manager had received 105 Yes prior votes. There being a large show of hands and no objection, David Morris (who had been co-opted during the year) was duly elected.

**RESOLUTION 4** To decrease the Annual fee to £10 had had 2 objections in prior voting. These were discussed briefly, in the light of the large present surplus. The fee had been increased only last year as a precaution. There being no objections and a large show of hands, the decrease was approved.

**RESOLUTION 6** The appointment of Peter Syddall as independent examiner of our accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 was proposed by the Executive, and passed *nem. con.* by the votes cast in advance and of those present.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** A member asked if we had a long-term arrangement to use Bowdon RFC. Answer: we might need a larger venue at some time (the December Gala could have sold far more places). We have successfully met at Altrincham AFC, which has about the same capacity as BRUFC. Meanwhile, we have a regular booking at BRFC.

The meeting closed at 2.23 pm.

Sophie Clarke and Tom Pieczora entertained us with fourteen songs spanning Ivor Novello to Sondheim

Refreshments were served