

Minutes of the Shell Travel Club Annual General Meeting held at
the Silvermere Golf Club, Cobham, Surrey on Wednesday, 6th March 2024 at 11.00 a.m.



1. **Apologies:** The names of 17 Members who had sent their apologies were read out. These are recorded at the end of these minutes. 51 members had indicated their wish to attend
2. **Minutes of the Previous AGM Held on 8th March 2023.** These were approved as a true and accurate record.
Proposer: Anthony Jonas; **Seconded:** Charles Richards
3. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report**
Chairman Rob Jenkins opened the Shell Travel Club AGM by welcoming everyone back to Silvermere.

Rob said it was lovely to see everybody and hoped all would have an enjoyable time to take the opportunity to meet with past colleagues and friends. Drinks were available at the bar to purchase and lunch was a 2-course buffet after which, members would be able to sit back and listen to the after-luncheon speech by Tim Moorey a professional crossword setter.

Chairman's Report

Although many of you know the Committee, for those that don't, let me introduce them to you: - Bob, Rex, Bruce, Steve, Sally, Allison, Frieda & Jonathan. A huge amount of work is put in by them all and without them, the club would not survive. We are still keen to find other members that would be willing to join the committee and in particular, look to organise trip, so if this appeals to you, please either see me or one of the other committee members. All our meetings continue to be virtual via Zoom and I think I am safe in saying that we are now all experts!

Unfortunately, our previous Treasurer, David Dugate sadly passed away in May last year following a long spell of illness. David put a lot of his time and effort in to the STC and amongst things, spearheaded the move to electronic banking for us which was well overdue. A lovely man and missed by many of us.

Since our last AGM, we have run two trips – Champagne in June and Worcestershire in September. Both were very enjoyable and well supported. It was also good to see new members join these trips. In addition, Frieda & Jonathan ran several day trips in London which again had great support and positive feedback. Bruce, once again organised The Festive Lunch in December. At members request, Bruce spent much time searching for a new location which he found and we had a super lunch at Effingham Golf Club.

Unfortunately, although the initial interest was high, only 38 attended of which 25% were committee members. This was really disappointing and undermines the work involved pulling this event together.

Looking at **2024**, we will be running trips to Tuscany, Portugal and the UK while Frieda & Jonathan will be putting together some interesting and informative day trips. See Item 11. We are currently looking at possible 2025 trips and these will be discussed in item 12 of the agenda.

It is very pleasing to see that we continue to sign up new members to the STC and these new members are coming on trips. Sally will give more details in item 8 on the agenda.

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Towards the end of last year, we had a discussion around how many 'active' members we had and also, how many of those who went on a day trip then signed up for a longer trip. We had a gut feel but no real answer so Bruce volunteered to do an analysis. He pulled together member participation on trips in 2022 and those in 2023 including the Festive Lunch. There were 10 events which attracted 282 attendees. This equated to 123 actual members. Of these, 46 members took part in 3 or more events and 10 of those were Committee members and spouses. There was also little evidence of members going on day trips progressing on to longer trips with the club.

Regarding today's AGM, you will have noticed that the cost is much lower than in past years. Due to dwindling numbers at this event and also that of the Festive Lunch during the past few years, the Committee decided to cover the cost of the room hire from funds in an effort to attract members to attend.

Once again, many thanks to all the committee for the time and effort they give voluntarily to the STC and to you our members for the support that you give it.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts:

These had been issued to members attending the AGM in person. Although it was a requirement of the Club Rules for the accounts to be 'Examined' by an independent person Rex explained that he had taken over the accounts in difficult circumstances due to the death of David Dungate (the previous Treasurer) in the early part of last year and some details from the transfer had been lost and were not available. This meant that the appointed 'Examiner' was unable to see the full details prior to April 2023 and complete his examination.

However, Rex considers the Financial Statement represents a true reflection of the Accounts and he would facilitate a request from any member to examine the Accounts should they feel it necessary.

Rex also reported that we have in place a Public Liability Insurance in which he is the Nominated holder having transferred the Policy from David Dungate

Peter Ankers agreed to Examine the Accounts provided they could be sent by email rather than an unreliable and expensive post.

No comments or queries were received and the Report and Accounts were approved.

Proposer: David Tozer **Seconded:** David Buxton

6. Membership Report

Shell Travel Club has 328 Lifetime Members and 96 Associate members.

Sally advised that since the last AGM we have gained 8 new Lifetime Members and 12 Associated Members.

7. Web Site Review

Sally advised that the Web Site is pretty much up to date and now Email addresses of Committee members have been removed to avoid scam emails. Members are reminded to check the origin of emails from Shell Travel and to ensure that STC communications are not directed to the Spam filter. Sally appealed to members to open and read their emails as that process will stop email addresses from being blocked.

Photos of STC holidays from members would be welcome for publishing on the Web Site Some members said they had difficulties opening the Web Files but this may be due to the software used by the recipient.



8. **Election of Officers**

The Chairman advised all the remaining Committee had expressed their willingness to continue for 2024. The following Members were elected 'on block' to form the 2023/24 Shell Travel Club Committee.

Chairman: Rob Jenkins

Officers and Committee Members listed below:

Treasurer: Rex Sinden

Membership Secretary & Web Co-Ordinator: Sally Dean

Secretary: Bob Fowler

Committee Members: Steve Jones, Allison Jenkins, Bruce Ogilvy, Jonathan and Frieda Boase

No new nominations were received from the floor and the election of the Officers was carried unanimously.

9. **Examiner**

After discussion, Peter Ankers volunteered his services as Examiner. Given he was our Examiner in the past and no other members had come forward, it was put to the vote and carried. **Proposed:** Charles Richards **Seconded:** Pauline Barnes

10. **2024/2025 Holiday Programme**

2024 Tuscany 7 Nights 5th to 12th May. This holiday is in conjunction with Success tours in a hotel. Steve Jones is taking 34 members to Tuscany, staying at the Grand Hotel Impero Spa and Resort for seven nights. During this holiday several excursions are included, among them cheese tasting, wine tasting and olive oil tasting.

2024: Portugal. 8th – 15th September. Bruce has arranged a River trip cruising along the Douro including excursions, Bruce highlighted that there are no minimum numbers and come what may the cruise is going ahead. The travel company is Riviera and STC will qualify for discount if the numbers exceed 16. Members can fly from Gatwick; Heathrow and Manchester. Excursions and scheduled meals/drinks aboard and ashore are inclusive. 12 Members have taken the advantage of this Trip.

Day Trips:

Although Frieda was unable to attend, her report is as follows:

"On 9th and 16 July excursions, 2024, Battersea Power Station: a day trip to Battersea Power Station has been arranged where members can discover the story of London's largest 'White elephant'. The response has been overwhelming. One tour has now developed into two with a waiting list for a possible third.

Other Day trips up-date: Lord's Cricket Ground has now been advertised and booked for Wednesday 10 April 2024 with a positive response from members. Frieda will be visiting the Apothecaries Guildhall soon to see if this could be added to the day trip list and possibly Berry Bros wine merchants in London.

A review of activity on the Day Trips since the last AGM:

Last July on a warm, sunny day members went on a walking tour of the City of London "City Blitz" covering the period from 1939 to 1941 through to the recovery during the 1950's and the exciting 2020's. This was followed by a visit to the Vintners Guildhall

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which was greatly received with an excellent guide who, unfortunately told us that only two members of staff had access to the extensive wine cellar. He wasn't one of them!

A flyer to be sent out for a tour of Lord's Cricket Ground. Sally will send this out later. It is always difficult to anticipate what will attract members to different events and can only say so far members have been very supportive in wanting to explore London which has so much to offer. Any member suggestions for future events would be very welcome."

Other planned Trips 2024:

2024 Cornwall: 6th -11th October. This will be a 5-night stay in a lovely hotel on the coast of Cornwall close to beaches on a DB&B basis offering fine dining. Travel will be by coach with pick up and drop off at our usual venue of Cobham Services. Rob and Allison have an itinerary which members will hopefully find both interesting and varied and will include a trip to one of the very good wine producers in the county. One of the days will be for members to have for their own leisure.

Possible 2025 Trips.

A discussion was held on various possibilities.

General feedback was that members preferred UK based Holidays mainly due to the expense and difficulties of obtaining travel insurance for older members. Overseas trips by coach are overshadowed by the difficulties and costs of transport across the Channel. New Entry and Exit rules to Europe are due to be implemented this year (Oct 2024) and coach companies are charging exorbitant prices due to the uncertainty. Additionally, there are now limitations on the amount of Champagne that we can bring back and Champagne houses are unwilling to open for small volume purchases. Duty Free allowances at the moment are 9 litres pp of Sparkling wine = 12 bottles and 24 Bottles of still wine.

Suggestions and Members Preferences (Voting Numbers)

Package Trips by Air: Montenegro (14) Northern Cyprus (22)

Cruises: Bruce is prepared to look at possibilities for following Cruises. N Croatia: Split and around the islands (9): River Cruise- Lyon-Marseille (2)

Possible UK Trips 2025. In Brief

Scilly Isles: Not viable due to Transport, Hotel limitations on groups and 2 yr. lead times

Scotland: Not practical due to long journey times, difficulties of Rail and Airport transits plus the need to stop over en route.

Lake District/Northumberland/Middle England: (13) Possibilities Rob/Alli will look at for May/Sept. (Most Favoured topics)

Jersey: Possible. Bruce will look at feasibility and timing. Could fly from Gatwick or Southampton

Festive Lunch 2025.

Thanks to the excellent Festive Lunch at Effingham last December Bruce has provisionally rebooked at this venue for Wednesday 4th December. As per last year there will be the option to select 2 or 3 course menus.

It was noted that the lunch at Effingham and the AGM have been heavily subsidised by the Club with view to attract more members to attend, although the response was a little disappointing. The AGM Buffet this year has been arranged as two courses (Main and Desert) with the main course being 'topped up' as required.



11. Any Other Business

Members attending gave thanks to the Committee for all their hard work during the year.
51 Members have registered for today AGM.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 12:30 and wished everyone an enjoyable lunch
and safe journey home.

Apologies Received.

Susan Woods
John Woods
Mike Ashton
Sue Ashton
Michael Osgood
Nicola Osgood

Della Stokes
Brian Stokes
Gillian Bloomfield
Jonathan Boase
Frieda Boase
Malcolm Gosling

Sandra Gosling
Geoff Donovan
John Alves
Belinda Alves
John Foster