



**Sussex Branch Annual General Meeting – 17th April 2010
held at Sovereign Centre, Eastbourne at 4pm.**

19 members attended: Roger Barrett, Betty Hakesley, Doug Simmonds, Di Cooke, John Stainer, Malcolm Brewster, Paul Olliver, Jane Askham, Dean Baker, Stuart Rigby, Lionel Hartley, Laurie Hughes, Sylvia Robinson, Sue Crouch, Kathryn Anderson, Richard Calvert, Gabbi Simmonds, Bryan Lopez, Zoe Dawe.

1. **Chairman, Jane Askham**, welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Roger Barrett, RLSS UK Branch Liaison & Customer Services Manager, thanking him for attending.
The Chairman then read the notice to officially convene the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:**
Betty Colquhoun, Terry Fitzgerald, Richard Billington, Darren Eaton, Mel Hargreaves, Frances Garrard, David Slade, Kate Hall, Rachael Kaiser, Steve Price, Barney Edgington, Brian Hall, Nan Knill, Claire Wiltshire, Pamela Shaw, Sue Heslop, Frank Paterson.
3. **Branch Officers and Area Managers** were introduced to the meeting by the Chairman.
4. **Minutes of the AGM 28th March 2009:** it was proposed by John Stainer and seconded by Richard Calvert that these be signed by the Chairman as a true record. This was agreed unanimously.
5. **Matters arising:**
There were none.
6. **Correspondence:**
There was none received.
7. **To receive the Annual Report of the Sussex Branch:**
The Sussex Branch Annual report is on the Website. 'Hard copies' were circulated to those present. It was proposed by Malcolm Brewster, seconded by John Stainer that the report be accepted. This was unanimously agreed.
Doug Simmonds, Branch Welfare Officer updated the meeting about revised Child Protection materials and procedures received from RLSS UK the day before the meeting.



8. **To receive the annual accounts of the Sussex Branch:**

Stuart Rigby referred to his report in the Annual Report. He offered to answer any questions.

Stuart reported that there was a small loss of £33 during the year but the Branch had made substantial investment into 6 clubs with Rookie boards and to three clubs with water safety promotions. The evaluations had been very positive. Telephone costs had increased significantly as the Management Committee were meeting through conference calling. This had meant that apart from one meeting all the committee had been able to take part. Travel costs remained about the same as this had reflected conference and modules run by the branch where tutors costs are covered.

Doug Simmonds asked about centralisation of accounts or accounts being run by RLSS UK – some branches have done this and found it successful. There will be more information at Conference in May.

It was proposed by Paul Olliver, seconded by John Stainer that the Annual Accounts should be adopted. This was agreed unanimously.

9. **Roger Barrett**, RLSS UK Branch Liaison & Customer Services Manager – thanked the Branch Management Committee for inviting him. He explained his role as Branch Liaison & Customer Services Manager – to support Branches; he's actually doing what Doug Simmonds is doing for Sussex in his Presidents' pledge. He tries to identify 'best practice' as Sussex is and encourage branches to have an annual 'action plan'. This has worked well in some branches. Roger elaborated on the centralised finances stating that invoices sent to River House would be authorised by our Treasurer through e mail contact and then paid centrally. Currently branches receive quarterly reports but eventually should be able to log on the get a report whenever they want one. He further explained central funding to the meeting.

Betty Hakesley asked for clarification about smaller items like travel costs and this would be paid in the same manner.

Roger also reported that the pilot Region had gone well.

Roger invited general questions:

- i) Malcolm Brewster asked about progressing club mark. This was echoed by Worthing, King Alfred and Crawley clubs. He will investigate and let Sec know so she can pass on his responses.
- ii) Malcolm Brewster – as Customer Services we have found getting responses slow, eg Beach bursaries for last year and ATC plaques – again Roger will investigate and let the Sec know.



10. **Presentations:**
Duke of Norfolk Shield - presented to the Club/School etc successfully gaining the highest points under the revised criteria, was presented to Hastings & St.Leonards Voluntary Lifeguard Club.
Diprose Award - presented to John Blackwell for his continued work at Worthing Lifeguard Corps running their accounts for 26 years.
Centenary Award - this award is presented annually to members of the Branch who have given outstanding service and/or contribution over a number of years. It was presented Hastings & St.Leonards Lifeguard Club for their successful Windermere swim and paddle.
Friends of the Society Certificates – none presented.

11. **Election of Officers:**
The nominations for the Management Committee posts were:
President - Doug Simmonds
Chair Person - Jane Askham
Treasurer - Stuart Rigby

It was agreed to nominate them en bloc by Betty Hakesley, seconded by Dean Baker and agreed unanimously.

Doug Simmonds' pledge:

If I was to be re-elected as President of the Sussex Branch this year I would want to continue with the work I started in 2009, I have made good contact with a number of clubs, I am looking at links with outside bodies including our fellow Lifesavers from other organizations, I have spoken to and made some contact with colleagues at UK level.

This year we see new styles of introducing young people into teaching and assessing with the Young Leaders Award now being overseen at TA level and there is a complete change in the whole Child Protection Policy with new CRB checks coming on stream in June.

By continuing to visit both clubs and other organizations I feel I would be able to not only continue but would also be able to further promote our work both in the community and amongst ourselves to the benefit of us all and the furtherance of the objectives of RLSS.



12. **Any Other Business:**

One item received from Worthing Lifeguard Corps: Competitions...
Would the Branch consider organising a competition whereby members of clubs new to competitions could be teamed with established competitors from other clubs, to give the newcomers experience and perhaps a chance to win.?

We find at the moment newcomers are reluctant to enter, as they feel they will not be of the required standard, therefore fewer and fewer clubs are entering. Some events could perhaps have an element of fun involved?

Something of this nature may perhaps restore the balance and encourage more clubs to enter.

The Chairman thanked Roger Barrett.

13. Before closing the meeting the **President addressed members** present and said 'That being in a position where although a member of the Branch Management to a certain extent he sat back and watched all the hard work that everyone did he did not want to go away without say a special thank you to those Branch Management Members and mentioned the Chair, Awards and Sales, Competitions, Webmaster and Treasurer in particular and made a special thanks to Di Cooke for all the hard work she does not just in her technical role or that of Area Manager or indeed as a stalwart supporter of Hastings Lifeguards but in that role of Secretary to the Branch a post she had held for a very long time and for which a lot of hard and unseen work was carried out and he specifically wanted that placed on record because this year it had been tougher than usual right down to last minute problems in getting the reports out because the copier had gone kaput!

14. **Meeting closed:** 5.30pm

The meeting was followed by a raffle and Sussex Teams Competition.

Signed:

Dated:

