

AGM

15th March 2006 was the annual general meeting.

This is where you have your say. Your say is important to the way that the club is run.

Many issues were up for discussions. This is the time when elections of new officers takes place.

The AGM was well attended this year. Many thanks to all of you that made the effort to come to the club on the night.

The new Committee members in this years team are Valerie Prentice, Ian Bugbee and



Joan Simms.

These members will be doing their best to support the Committee and bringing in new ideas which will help the club to function better.

Members if you have any good ideas please bring this to the attention of the committee. We will be very happy to discuss these ideas and make decisions on what we could do.

Easter Signers Echo



No Smoking Policy



This was one of the key amendment that was passed by the membership. The members introduced a partial "no smoking ban".

This means that the main reception room is a no smoking area.

If members wish to smoke while on the premises, they can use the games and snooker room providing no matches are being played at the time.

However, in the Summer of 2007, there will be a full no smoking ban.

This is because the government had passed a bill into law that was introduced in 2005.

This means that you will not be able to smoke anywhere in public places.

The only place, you will be allowed to smoke will be in the privacy of your own home.

Some members have visited their Doctors and have been prescribed "nicotine patches". This will help smokers who want to give up smoking. It was pleasing to see that members took notice as the following week after the AGM the main reception room was free of smoke.

Well done members!

Subscription Fees

The membership passed a second amendment. Currently, there is a "couples membership fee". From the next financial year 2006/7 this "couples fee" will be withdrawn. In future couples will be treated as a two singles membership.

This means that a couple will have to pay for two singles membership fees. The good news is that the membership have agreed to freeze the single membership fee for next year to the same as this years. Secondly, non members pay a door entry fee of £2 each time they visit the club.

However, at any time they can become full members if they wish. They must realise that the full membership will run out at the end of the financial year and may not get the full 12 months benefits like members who have paid up on time.

It is far better to pay up for full membership, than to pay weekly at the door.



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SPECIAL FEATURES OF INTEREST:

- ♦ No Smoking
- ♦ Building Works
- ♦ Living Options
- ♦ Wags
- ♦ Torbay Deaf Church
- ♦ Tudor Simms
- ♦ Theatre
- ♦ Xmas Dinner

SPORTS

Amanda Whittle is still the Sports Secretary and will be busy organising the Club Games soon.

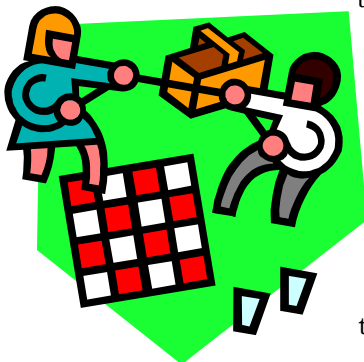
Amanda had withdrawn as the Skittles captain as she found working and running the Skittles matches very hard and tiring work especially when she had to get up very early in the morning to go work.

The good news is Simon Runacres had agreed to take over as Skittles Captain.

One of the task is to organised members to play skittles at short notice and members should be ready to help out when they are called upon.

The Skittles team have taken a knock in the league due to strong competition with other teams.

The team have now got a fight on to get back into the top two



slots if they are going for promotion.

If you require any news or help to do with Sports, Amanda will be very happy to help you.

Amanda now had extra help with running the sports section as it is a big department to run. Especially when running the Club matches. Amanda had a new assistant in Paul Lowry.

Building Works

The games room will be undergoing refurbishment!

The room will be out of bounds for approximately 4 weeks.

This will allow the builders to put down a new floor down which will include a new skittles alley.

The room will look smashing when it is finished. It probably be the envy of the skittles league when they come to play here.

Please spare a thought for our cleaner. Keith will have a difficult time trying to keep the club free of dust during this short period.

Living Options

On the 22nd March the Police Diversity officer and Living Options visited the club.

Paul Valentine (Margo's son) had organised the event through his firm Living Options, in Exeter.

This visit served as an eye opener for the Police. It is the first time that they having to look at the deaf community and having to respect our way of living, particularly sign language communications skills, that we require in order

to communicate with the Police.

The police hope that they can greatly improve their responses and this will be noticed when they visit the club in a years time, to ask us our thoughts of their new behaviours.

The Police took this opportunity to listen to some of the issues that were raised. The Police said that they will look at these recent incidents and find out what went wrong and hope to change a lot of their current practise as a result of these new investigations.

The Police did ask for patience as issues cannot be solved straight away but certainly over a period of time.



Computer Course

Some members of the Wags group have completed their first course and have received their certificates.

This group managed to have their photo and the story placed in the local newspaper. A copy of the story is on the notice board.

Following the lead of the Wags group, the younger members did a seven weeks course, which had recently come to an end.

However, one of the teachers on the course had agreed to do a fol-

low up course in microsoft words.

The course date had not been announced but it had been fixed at £3 a lesson which will consist of two hours of training a week for several weeks.



This is exceptional good value for money and I would urged those to take up this offer. The start date will be announced at a later date.

I have also been asked if there are anymore beginners who would like to learn computers. I will need a minimum of eight people. If I can get eight I will contact the organisers and arrange a new start date. Please speak out if you would like to be on the next course.

These courses seem very popular to our members.

WAGS

Margaret Ford the chief organiser is busy as always.



Injecting life into the old codgers especially to a round of keep fit exercises. (Running up and down the Club Stairs without using the Chair lifts!)

Finishing off with a cup of tea, sandwiches and arthritis tablets to relieve aching joints!

(Michael Norrish swears by this as

it is a great comfort to his knees after they have been treated!)

Every Wednesday, tea is served from 4pm onwards till the for main Social Club opened at 19.00pm.

Wags frequently go on trips and organised tea away.

If you require any Information about this group, please contact Margaret.

Margaret can be contacted most Wednesday at the Club.

Ladies Group

Sally Brown is in the process of getting this years ladies group organised.

There will be a group meeting on Friday 21st April at 19.30pm at the Club, to thrash out a plan for the new year. On the agenda are Craft evening, Summer Outing, Xmas



Shopping, Xmas Dinner etc.

If any ladies have any ideas to bring forward please bring it up in the meeting.

To encourage attendance, the ladies are laying on a Chinese take away and the cost will be £2 per person.

Please let Sally know

If you are attending the meeting.

Torbay Deaf Church

Sally Rossiter said that they are still waiting for news on the new Chaplain. She is sorry that it is taking so long to sort it out but one of the main problem is the funding for the chaplain which is held by the Church of England diocese.

Next on the calendar is Palm Sunday. This will be held at Sidmouth Parish Church on 9th April at 3pm.



Rik Peckham who is the vicar of this church had invited us to attend his service in the afternoon.

On 3rd June weekend there will be a party to celebrate 20 years of Devon Deaf Church and

Pentecost. 4th June.

The party is being in Plymouth, again more information

THEATRE

Caroline Norrish organised another show for the club and Steve Almy Interpreting for the play.

The show was "Starlight Express" at the Princess theatre, Torquay.

Once again block tickets were bought which gave a saving of £8 on a ticket which was good value for money.

The show was fabulous, especially the costumes, roller skating and the train races. To see the races you had to wear special glasses for the 3D special effect.

There will be a small break in the calendar but Caroline will line up another popular show soon.

Please support this event as it helps the Theatre to integrate and put on signers for occasions like these.



Xmas Dinner

The Xmas dinner was held at the Victoria Hotel. 42 people had a good night out. The meals were delicious and the spirit of the party was in good swing. I feel it was so good that I would like to have another one this year. Will there be one please register your vote!



will be give out later.

Tickets are £8 and will be going on sale shortly.

Pentecost service will starts at 2pm on the Sunday.

Please see Sally R if you are keen to go.

There will be a minibus laid on for the Sunday Service only.

There will be no church service at Torquay during June because of the Plymouth weekend.

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TDSC

President's Chatter

There is a real cause for "concern". It is about Saturday attendances at the club.

Recently seven people were at the club of which five were committee members. If attendances does not improve, it is more than likely that the club in future will be forced to stay closed on Saturdays .

It is not cost effective to keep the club open for a small numbers of people, particularly with gas, electricity and insurance costs rising.

If you want the Club to remain open please try and attend and support the Club on Saturdays.

After all, the Club is only open on two Saturdays in the month.



The Andrew Ford Lectures

COMMITTEE

Life President: Andrew Ford
Chairman: Marcus Whittle
Secretary: Simon Runacres
Assist. Secretary: Jonathan Brown
Treasurer: Andrew Foster
Sports Secretary: Amanda Whittle
Committee Officers
Margaret Ford
Valerie Prentice
Ian Bugbee
Joan Simms

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2006/2007
SINGLE £8:00
COUPLES £12:00
TEMPORARY £2:00

Tudor Simms

The club was sad to hear of Tudor untimely death.

Tudor was a popular member of the club. He was one that would always help anyone .

Tudor was part of the maintenance team for the club and helped to keep it in good nick. Tudor was a social carer and a keen fund raiser.

After Tudor's funeral there was a 'Wake' held at the club.

It was very heartening to see all of Tudor's friends who came in three minibuses from Wales to commemorate the occasion.

One of Tudor's friend did a good speech on his time when Tudor was a good cyclist and represented Wales in the Deaf Olympics back in the 1950's.

CONGRATULATIONS

It is a quiet month, not much to celebrate other than Wags and Social Club successes in the recent Computer courses.

WELL DONE!!

30th March ,Marcus Whittle 39th Birthday ! BIG 40(OLD BOY) NEXT YEAR!!!!!!

Margaret Ford made Honorary member of the Social Club.



Celebrations Corner!!

The newsletter is printed four times a year.

Chief Editor : Jonathan Brown.