

SLINGSBY WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 18th January 2023

Slingsby Sports Club

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Slingsby Website and Newsletter Group's AGM, where we review the past year and elect the Management Committee, which runs the Group's business. The Group is now in its twelfth year of operation.

My report will give a brief overview of key aspects of the Group's activities, and then look ahead to 2023.

Separate reports will be presented by others to give more detail about our Group's financial position, The Triangle and the more technical aspects of the website.

The reporting year (nominally from 1st November 2021 to 31 October 2022) was a relatively stable period for the Group (especially compared to the uncertainties and difficulties of the previous two years).

2. Finance

Our finances are healthy, with income and expenditure remaining broadly stable. Our Treasurer, Maurag Carmichael, has drawn up the detailed End of Year accounts, and they have been subject to independent inspection. Maurag has produced a Financial Report which provides a detailed analysis and summary of the accounts. Along with all our AGM reports, this is available here at the AGM and will be published online.

3. Website

This year has been a transitional period for the website with some changes of personnel, of which more later under Section 5 "The Group".

As Website Editor, I was very pleased to see Ryan Perry taking an active role on the website team and on our Group's Management Committee.

The number of news and events posts published by the website in this reporting period was around 115, which represented a slight reduction on last year. Important among these were the posts we published mainly in May and June to keep everyone updated and informed about the Local Plan site submissions by Castle Howard, a hot topic and a seemingly fast-moving situation.

We continue to update the many background information pages as best we can and encourage local community group leaders (e.g. the Parish Council, the churches, the Local History Group) to take ownership of the information we carry on their behalf and advise us when updates are needed.

Our webmaster Richard Flint has once again agreed to carry on working for us until a new webmaster is in place, for which I'm very grateful. His activities this year have been concentrated on trouble-shooting and technical support, as more functions have been automated and certain tasks have been taken over by the editors (Ryan and me).

More information of a technical and statistical nature is given in his Webmaster's report.

4. The Triangle

The Triangle has had a settled year, with co-editors David Thornley and Gill Baker once again alternating to produce six full and interesting issues. A printed publication with longer features complements the raw news and events information provided by the village website. Each issue of the Triangle is well-received by our subscribers.

The usual practical issues around collection of subs and printing and delivery, together with management of advertising, were handled skillfully by Jo Breckon.

We thank all the Triangle delivery team and all contributors and advertisers for their ongoing support.

The Triangle Editors' report and the advertising and distribution report will give more information.

5. The Group

There have been a few changes to membership of the Group during this period.

In February 2022 Maurag Carmichael took over as our Treasurer, bringing considerable experience.

Of the four volunteers who had come forward towards the end of the last period, Ryan Perry is fully integrated in the team (even though often working around the country), Mary Laird has left us and is occupied full-time teaching and studying in London, Hannah Orchison is concentrating on her "A" levels (including Maths - we hear the PM is pleased!) while Paul Hogarth, although doing a great job in a number of areas for our community, remains our webmaster in waiting.

6. Outlook

The future of both The Triangle and the Village website seems to be reasonably secure in the medium term.

There are currently no obvious risks to our continuing to deliver these valuable services.

Of course, we are aware that things can change quite quickly, and we must be realistic about being able to retain our younger members.

I expect the migration of website technical tasks to continue with greater momentum in the coming year.

I am pleased to say that a recent review of our financial situation will allow us to reduce the annual subscription to the Triangle to £5 from April 2023.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow committee members and, as always, we the committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making the website and Triangle a success in the past year. We look forward to cooperating with even more residents and community groups and to reporting on what looks to be a very busy year ahead.

Jon Boots
Chairman and Secretary

18 January 2023