

Cheadle and Gatley 41 Club – Meeting 17 January 2022

General Discussions re future, formats etc.

Attendees were Dave Barrow, Lee Childs, Ian Coleman, Andy Cotter, David Croft, Chairman Russell Dymond, Sir James Fairbrother, Mike Green, David Ham, Neil Kellett, Dave Khan, Peter Lee, Kevin Lovett, John Mather, Damien McElvenny, Peter Owen & Alan Walker (17)

Apologies received from Roy Davies, Callum Gray, Terry Guy, Lawrence Kershaw, Richard Seth, Tony Smith, Mark Tipping and Jeremy Toone (8).

Permanent apologies are Dave Curran, Roger Rose and Graham Sloan (3)

No word from Nigel Gilland, Mike Heyes and Jon Newsome (3)

We met in the White Hart, Cheadle for a few beers and food from the menu.

Chairman's Introduction

Chairman Russell outlined the format of the meeting to be :-

Minute Secretary David Ham would read a section of the notes from the November meeting, which we would then discuss before moving onto the next point, etc. Each member would be able to present their thoughts, feelings and potential ideas, without question or interruption.

Major Issues

The issues to be addressed can be summarised thus:

- Existing Membership
- Recruitment
- Attendance at meetings
- Format and frequency of meetings
- Communications and Apologies Process

Existing Membership

We have 31 fully paid up members of Cheadle & Gatley 41 Club, which is a core of 14-15, 3 Country members and 2 unwell. This leaves 12 or so who just don't bother and don't communicate.

November had 10 attendees, Christmas some 17 and tonight (January) 17

COVID has caused us issues – are we worrying about nothing?

We had problems before COVID

Recruitment

Cheadle & Gatley Round Table have 8 +1 current members, of whom 4 are eligible to join 41. Alun Griffiths, Chris Bedford-Gay, Carl Gillingham and later Ed Painter.

We don't support them either for their events or just meetings! Need to improve liaison.

To attract new RT members, need to have a more lively programme, adopt a buddy system.

We are not doomed, many clubs have gone to the wall during COVID, We are good

Suggest joint social with RT and 41. Again people need to respond.

We could join NSW in September in Lancaster

Grange Lions is only growing due to Mrs Khan's constant phone support for new and prospective members. Other clubs suffer reducing numbers.

Probus do run interesting events, but their age range makes us look like the Kindergarten.

Recruiting from outside Round Table, Lions, Rotary is not the answer as it takes a type to understand the banter and humour. Ladies Tangent recruit openly, but there are concerns from the original Tangenters about the newer non linked members.

No comments re the named ex Tablers and 41 ers such as Digby, Mott, Bale, Ousbey, Edge

Attendance at meetings

Huge discussion about poor or non existent responses

Agreed meeting communications will be one email per month from Secretary Alan. It will include the date and venue of the event, details as known at the time, book-in or apologise to named person, with email address and by when numbers, or indication of attendance are needed. Members to respond by email, not WhatsApp, carrier pigeon or divine intervention.

It remains impossible to book events as things are – we need to get our own house in order before approaching others.

Format and frequency of meetings

Four formal meetings discussed – AGM in April, Quiz in October, Christmas and say July. Needs are to book a venue – e.g. Village, take the hit on the cost.

Venue deemed crucial. Needs to have room for 15+, private, bar to 11, food cost less important, don't need a meal choice.

Cheadle Golf club – is a useful venue, but closes early.

Ten years ago, Village was good – decent room, food iffy, easy to get to.

Keep the summer outside events, seek more activity events.

Poynton now only meet informally in Wetherspoons – Not 41, no 41 club values

This is the second informal meeting where 15 plus have attended – Feb meeting – similar arrangement – White Hart was good – good food, good beer and excellent service.

Social events are even harder to arrange and get responses, thus easier not to bother.

We could join any number of other clubs' Ladies evenings – e.g Rochdale March £35

Suggest we choose a local restaurant – arrange joint social 41, RT, Circle, Tangent

Communications

Covered under other headings – people must be persuaded to respond.

Email will be the de-facto standard.

Apologies process

Only 'Country Members' will be permitted to have permanent apologies. These are people who live far away and can't be expected to attend every month. Currently, there are 3 – Messrs Curran, Rose and Sloan. They will continue to book in to attend any event.

No other permanent apologies will exist. All other members are expected to read Alan Walker's email and respond to the organising officer as to whether they will attend or apologise.

Non apology will generate a charge for the cost of the event.

And Finally

A Glass was raised for Stuart Pennell – his funeral is Wednesday 19th Jan and will be well attended by 41 clubbers; and

Final Toast 11:00 p.m. - Good meeting chaps.

David Ham 19/01/22

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