**MINUTES OF THE**

**TWINNING COMMITTEE FOR CORNWALL AGM**

**held on 19 November 2023 at Tehidy Park Golf Club, Cot Road, Camborne TR14 0HH**

Welcome to everyone. The Chairman went through the safety procedures.

**1 Apologies**

Prior to meeting:

Associations: Falmouth, Lostwithiel, Restormel, Torpoint, Wadebridge

Individuals: Lilian Polkinghorne (Redruth), Alison Mandeville (Truro-Morlaix), Giuliana Hanman (Helston Sasso), Phil Hanman (Helston Plougasnou), Stephanie Yates (Saltash)

**Attendees**: Sue Lumley (Callington) [chair], Rick Lumley (Callington), Beatrice Kerno-Plummer (Porthleven), Karen Bennett (Penzance), Peter Crumpler (Penzance), Jill Whitechurch (Launceston), John Whitechurch (Launceston), Jackie Foster (Bude-Stratton), Janet Rowlands (Newquay), Karen Perry (Newquay), Mary Smith (St Just-in-Penwith), Pauline Cowham (St Just-in-Penwith), Rachel Killick (Truro-Morlaix), Martin Davies (Truro-Morlaix), Ron Moyle (Redruth), Vanessa Moyle (Redruth), Simon Cassidy (Liskeard), Julia Chambers (Helston/Plougasnou), Charlene Ramsey (Porthleven & Sithney), Neisha Harding (Porthleven & Sithney)

**2 Minutes of last AGM**

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted. These were proposed by Janet Rowlands (Newquay) and seconded by Julia Chambers (Helston). Passed unanimously.

**3 Matters arising**

Typo in Penzance delegate’s name noted and corrected.

**4 Correspondence**

There had been the usual day-to-day emails, for example updating of delegates etc.

Rick thanked associations who have responded to the plea for constant updates of officers and their contact details. He reiterated that information should be sent to the secretary as soon as any change is made to ensure the maintenance of communications. Without it there can be no circulation of minutes, agendas, notification of the *boules* competition, the general meetings at Lostwithiel nor of the AGM. Above all, associations will miss out on important information about affiliation fees and public liability insurance cover.

Some associations had missed out on the invitation on the 50th anniversary of Brittany Ferries. It was stressed that TCC do not pass on details without permission.

Information about new travel arrangements for twinning associations, and their members and families had been received – to be discussed later.

**5 Chairman’s Report**

Sue gave the following report:-

I would like to thank you all for coming to our AGM today on what has turned out to be one of the most inconvenient days of the year thanks to inclement weather and significant road works for the whole weekend on the A30. However, we have battled our way here to enjoy each other’s company share experiences and help solve the day-to-day problems that beset us in our twinning roles.

It has been a strange year with pared down meeting meaning that contact between associations has been very limited. When we add to this the fact that a very slim response to the Boules competition forced us to cancel the event this year, it would seem that little is happening in the world of twinning. However, we know this is not the case, with many associations now feeling that they can, at last, go back to organising regular visits and fund-raising activities after the most virulent Covid period when our worlds changed significantly.

To help us manage the bookings more efficiently for the future Brittany Ferries has introduced their Trade Support team who are signing up twinning associations with an offer of 20% discount on group fares coupled with rewards for members of individual associations who will be able to receive a 10% discount on their personal and family bookings on Brittany ferries boats to France or Spain. A great carrot to entice new members into our associations.

At the beginning of the year Brittany ferries also offered a wonderful reward to hard working organisers of twinning activities. The Gala event organised aboard the Pont Aven was quite spectacular and the ship was full to the gunnels with revellers from Cornwall, England and Wales coupled with many of their counterparts from Brittany who had been sailed in from Roscoff earlier in the day and would be transported back overnight when the party was over.

I tried to contact as many associations as possible as Brittany ferries did not hold any clearly defined contact list but spaces soon got filled up and sadly there were some disappointed people amongst us. Personally, we were disappointed that representatives from our twin town, Guipavas, did not come, basically because no one was available just after New Year possibly because that nasty thing called work got in the way!!

Our one meeting in April was well attended with a number of new faces which is always great to see. A big thanks as usual to Lostwithiel for hosting us – I’m sure we still owe you money for the hire of the hall!

Which leads me smoothly on to the reason we owe money – sadly we still have no treasurer to deal with financial issues. The volunteer who was waiting to take over has not enjoyed the smooth path to recovery from illness he was hoping for, and now his twinning association looks like it might fold. This would mean that he would not be eligible to take on the role in an organisation of which he is not a member.

In order to ensure that this meeting could go ahead and we would be able to pay Tehidy Golf Club I have had to contact the last treasurer who officially resigned 5 years ago but has remained a signatory due to the fact that no one has taken his place. Due to the fact that he has now become his wife’s primary carer he no longer participates in Callington twinning so technically should not be signing cheques!

The big question has to be asked – is the Twinning Committee for Cornwall necessary in this day and age? If the answer is “No” (and we have been told this recently by one very successful association) then there is no problem. If, however, the answer is “Yes” it needs officers, and very specifically a treasurer, to ensure clarity in what we do which, financially, is very little and not very often. Please give this some thought.

This has come to a head in a year when Rick and I have found life rather taxing and with less energy than in the past to deal with commitments. Rick’s knee replacement has taken far more out of him on the road to recovery than he was expecting, and I had far less energy than I would have liked to be able to look after him when he was incapacitated due to my skirmish with Covid a year ago which left me with severe sinus problems which have needed four courses of antibiotics this summer and has left me with very intermittent taste and smell.

There have also been some very positive things happening this year. Both Looe and Liskeard have been in touch asking for help to revive their twinning links and I have spoken to a number of twinning committees who are planning visits for 2024. Let’s hope this positivity continues.

**6 Treasurer’s Report**

Due to the fact that there had been no activity during the past year, no financial report was presented. Sue did announce a healthy balance of £2823.38 from the most recent bank statement.

**7 Election of Officers**

Sue Lumley handed over to the Secretary. It was proposed by Karen Bennett (Penzance) and seconded by Janet Rowlands (Newquay) that Sue Lumley be reinstated as Chairman. There being no other nominations, this was passed unanimously. Sue did point out that this situation might not be possible in the future.

Sue retook the chair. The following nominations were made:

Vice Chair Beatrice Kerno-Plummer (Porthleven) - Proposed by Julia Chambers (Helston) and seconded by Jill Whitechurch (Launceston). Passed unanimously

Secretary Rick Lumley (Callington) – Proposed by Jill Whitechurch (Launceston) and seconded by Janet Rowlands (Newquay). Passed unanimously

Treasurer Julia Chambers (Helston) - Proposed by Karen Perry (Newquay) and seconded by Beatrice Kerno-Plummer (Porthleven). Passed unanimously.

The officers for 2023-2024 would therefore be: -

Vice Chairman Beatrice Kerno (Porthleven)

Secretary Richard Lumley (Callington)

Treasurer Julia Chambers (Helston)

Following her election, Julia undertook to move forward with the proposed use of on-line banking.

**8 Election of Posts of Responsibility were as follows:-**

Publicity Officer Beatrice Kerno (Porthleven) – Proposed by Simon Cassidy (Liskeard) and seconded by Sue Lumley (Callington). Passed unanimously.

Webmaster Richard Lumley (Callington) – Proposed by Beatrice Kerno (Porthleven) and seconded by Simon Cassidy (Liskeard). Passed unanimously.

It was underlined that Beatrice’s role was to co-ordinate press releases, rather than create them, and that it was the responsibility of associations to provide her with relevant articles, ideally with a photo.

**ACTION: All Associations and their members**

**9 Future Developments in TCC**

1. **Safeguarding**

It was felt that it was not the role of TCC to oversee Safeguarding issues, but it was stressed that each association should be aware of the need to act prudently if they were dealing with children or vulnerable adults. Wide ranging discussion on the situation and it was felt that, in the majority of cases, this did not apply to “regular” twinning activities. Helston Town Twinning has a possible template and any associations were invited to make contact with them if desired.

1. **Number of meetings**

Discussion took place on the number of meetings per year and it was decided to maintain the present pattern of one General Meeting in April (to be held on Sunday 14th April 2024) at a venue to be confirmed and the AGM on Sunday 17th November. Again, the venue would be confirmed. The Tehidy Golf Club venue was felt to be suitable, but alternative venues more in the central part of Cornwall would be explored, taking into account facilities, menus and budgets.

**10 The Edwin & Ernestine Jones Memorial Bursary**

Janet Rowlands (Newquay) raised the question as to how flexible the guidelines were for the bursary as there was a suitable candidate from Newquay who fell outside the age guidelines. Members agreed that the original spec be examined to see if there was any room for manoeuvre.

***Post Meeting Notes: On later perusal of the guidelines, it was noted that any decision on the bursary is made by the officers and that they also had permission to adjust the amount of the award. A meeting of the officers will be arranged early in 2024 to discuss the matter.)***

**11 County Boules Tournament**

Associations were urged to join in with the fun and help bring added numbers to the 2024 event. Sunday 9th June was proposed for 2024, being the day after the Royal Cornwall Show and, as far as attendees were aware, not clashing with any other significant event. A venue needs to be secured for that date.

(***Post Meeting Note: Lostwithiel has been contacted, as suggested, but the piste is not suitable for the expected numbers***).

**ACTION: Beatrice Kerno (Porthleven) to book suitable piste**