

Annual General Meetings are not very exciting events. People tell you what you already know and ask for approval for more of the same. The trick is to keep the unexciting bits to a minimum and spend time doing something interesting.

At our recent annual general meeting the minutes of the previous meeting, the officers' reports and the financial reports were kept brief and printed out for all to read whilst the meeting assembled.

With 21 members present the meeting progressed speedily. The chairman welcomed the members; wished them a happy new year and formally presented the reports. The reports included recognition of the work of various individuals who contributed to the smooth operation of the club.

Officers' reports were accepted without question as was the audited financial report which showed a modest surplus on the year.

The reserve fund was satisfactory. With no significant expenditure planned it was recommended that the annual subscription remain at £5.00. It has been held at that level since the club started in 1992. Is that a record? The reason for the low annual fee is that most of the club's costs are for the use of the premises and they are covered by the meeting fees (which also have not changed for some years).

The committee comprises the same people as last year, albeit with some changes of individual responsibility. Howard continues as Chairman and also covers the vacant Treasurer's post. Mike F will continue to collect the meeting fees and assumes the office of Secretary.

Steve steps down as vice-chairman owing to pressure of work, but will continue on the committee and provide technical support.

The vice-chairmanship is taken by Mike J to add to his duties as the club's webmaster. Rhona will also continue on the committee and the auditor will again be Mrs Seymour.

All the above adjustments and appointments were approved without dissent and a vote of thanks was given to the committee for their work on behalf of the members. The formal Annual General Meeting was then closed.

After a break for refreshments the meeting reassembled to discuss the forthcoming programme and to identify topics to suit the needs of the membership.

Suggestions were made. In particular it seemed that the concept of short sessions at the start of meetings was found to be a useful means of refreshing some of the basics that we all forget from time to time. Indeed, a few of the basics were mentioned there and then and indicated that occasionally some basics are by-passed completely! More Brains Trust question and answer evenings were requested and the committee will meet to compile and present a full programme at the next meeting. The programme will be designed to cover a wide range of topics.

