

STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

Committee Minutes for 2025 - 2026

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Stokesley Probus Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting Tuesday 20th May 2025

In attendance: Keith Waller, Paul Bruce, Chris Griffiths, Keith Bell,
Graham Howard, Chris Lee

Apologies: Brian Clarke, Kevin Clifford, John Edwards, Derek Whiting

1. The Chairman started the Meeting with a follow-up to the AGM:
 - a welcome return with new tenures 2025 to 2028 to:
Kevin Clifford, Graham Howard and Derek Whiting as GMs
 - a welcome to Paul Bruce as a new GM 2025 to 2028
 - a welcome to Chris Griffiths as the new SF 2025 to 2028
 - thanks to Maj Chuhan for renewing his tenure as Auditor 2025 to 2028
 - thanks to everyone for fulfilling their roles
2. Minutes of last Meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 – accepted
3. Matters Arising – the Chairman expressed thanks to Bob Scott for ‘Minuting’.
 - check Chris Griffiths entry to Committee distribution list (Listed).
 - No other issues raised.
4. Paul Bruce: future issues for the Club – Recruitment.
Paul started with a contextual background.

SPC provides excellent ‘value for money’.
SPC is one of the well-managed Clubs.

The interaction of Members with varied career backgrounds is excellent.
The social conversations are excellent.

There is something for everyone in the Speaker Programme with most being enjoyable.

Paul summarised his Probus experiences as a Speaker across Scotland and the North of England highlighting successful and struggling clubs.
Paul delivered a well-thought-out presentation of ideas.

These were intended as ‘brainstorming ideas’ aimed at securing the future of SPC in terms of attracting new Members.

The main issues facing all Clubs and Societies being ‘aging memberships’, member health issues, Talks offered in other organisations so competition, diverse attractions in society.

Paul listed his ideas/suggestions for Committee discussion: see List

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Committee discussion was limited due to time issues.

Initial responses:

- current recruiting via existing Members most effective (but more needed)
- history behind inviting Women into membership
- a declining interest in 'Clubs' by people under retirement age
- Pauls' key point: "to look at the problem before it becomes a problem"

The Chairman thanked Paul for a very professional, comprehensive and thought-provoking presentation. Paul's commitment to supporting the future of SPC was appreciated.

Increasing Membership

- Offer an incentive to current members to introduce new members to the club and, once they become fully paid-up members, the person who introduced them is entitled to a free meal at the next arranged lunch.
- Offer an incentive to new members of an introductory free membership period (3, 6 or 12 months)
- Women members – I have already discussed this with the Chair but feel this could benefit from being revisited by the committee. I have attended several clubs in Scotland where women are welcomed – after all, there are professional and businesswomen in this world.
- Consider opening up the talk part of the meetings to the public, including women (for an entrance fee, which would boost funds) This could also potentially boost membership, as people would effectively be getting a "try before you buy" experience. At the end of the talk, the Chair could then thank the public who have attended and ask respectfully that they leave before the meeting commences.
- Agenda item for each meeting to remind members that we have an open door policy for new members to join.
- Flyers strategically placed around Stokesley (notice boards, shops, library, community hub, pubs, cafes etc.)
- Link with Rotary Club?
- Recruitment at the petrol pump?
- Reach out on social media and website
- Engage with large businesses in the area with a view to targeting soon-to-retire employees. Example – Council, Quorn factory in Stokesley, Thirteen Group – representative of club to liaise with their HR dept.

KW & PB 20.5.25

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