

# STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

## Minutes of Members Meetings 2024-2025

### Contents

(Click an entry below to jump to required minutes)

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 17/06/2025.....1

### Minutes of Members Meeting held on 17/06/2025

#### **Minutes of Meeting**

1. Attendance and apologies: 24 attendees, 12 apologies, 2 guests.
2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20th May 2025: Accepted
3. Matters arising: None

#### **4. Committee Reports**

*Treasurer:* Apologies, unable to attend. Collection of subscriptions almost complete.  
Two Members paid during the meeting.

*Secretary:* All in order. No issues to report this month.

*Website Manager:* Apologies, unable to attend. Website up to date.

*Speaker Finder:* Speaker appointments for 2026-2027 progressing well.  
Suggestions from Members always welcome.

#### **5. Member Lunches**

Tockett's Mill held on 6th June 2025: Venue and meal enjoyed by all despite fewer attendees than usual. 12 Members and 1 guest.

However, there was some confusion with payment for drinks.

Next lunch will be on Wednesday 8th October 2025. Details will be issued nearer the time.

#### **6. Trips**

*Castle Howard; suggestion from Jim Gannon and Norris Wilson:* The Chairman reported that the venue had now opened for the season, but communication was problematic.

The Christmas decorations this year will be themed "The Wizard of Oz".

## STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

### Minutes of Members Meetings 2024-2025

Group visits not catered for – everyone enters as an individual visitor.

No concessions for members of other organisations (NT, English Heritage, Historic Houses Ass.)

Entry cost not yet fixed, but likely to be around £20. Transport – a full 36 seater coach would cost £20 per person. Full cost of trip estimated at around £40 per person.

Members showed very little interest in this trip. Consequently, this proposal is dropped.

*Princess Alexandra Auditorium (Yarm School Theatre): Suggested by Stephan Barnes & Alwyn Boulby.* The Chairman had reviewed upcoming productions, and considered the only suitable show was Madama Butterfly later in the year. Saturday evening performance £40.00pp

Again, there was very little interest, and this proposal is also dropped.

#### **7. Paul Bruce: Suggestions**

On 20th May, Paul presented a set of strategies at the Committee Meeting aimed at promoting recruitment for SPC.

The ideas are simply presented as a brainstorming list of proposals for consideration by Members to be adopted, adapted or rejected.

Paul's suggestions, previously emailed to Members, were presented in sequence by the Chairman for discussion within the Meeting:

1. 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. ***Members showed little enthusiasm for this. Rejected***

2. Offer an incentive to new Members of an introductory free membership period (3, 6, 12 months). ***Idea well received. Members preferred the 3 month option. To be adopted***

3. 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. ***This led to lively discussion and strong views on both sides of the argument. However, the momentum was clearly with those rejecting the proposal. As Membership levels were currently sufficient to keep subscriptions to a reasonable level, it was considered not essential to introduce such a radical change at this stage. Issue to be considered again at a later date***

## **STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB**

### **Minutes of Members Meetings 2024-2025**

4. 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.

***The consensus was that as the Club was a forum of like-minded retired professionals with an established Club atmosphere, random visits from the public may dilute the ethos. Declined***

5. Agenda item for each meeting to remind Members that we have an open-door policy for new Members to join. ***Issue currently appears as Item 2 in every Agenda. To be re-worded for emphasis. To be adapted***

6. Flyers strategically placed around Stokesley (notice boards, shops, library, community hub, pubs, cafes etc.) ***This was broadly supported by Members. It was suggested the programme of events be included on such flyers. Details subject to further discussion. Idea to be adopted***

7. Link with Rotary Club? ***Members expressed concerns regarding divergent aims, objectives, ethos and identity. Rejected***

8. Recruitment at the petrol pump? ***A bit of a stretch! However, the inventiveness was appreciated. Rejected***

9. Reach out on social media and website. ***Ideas included having a Facebook page. Principle supported. Pending***

10 Engage with large businesses in the area with a view to targeting soon-to-be retired employees. Example – Council, Quorn factory in Stokesley, Thirteen Group – representative of club to liaise with their HR dept. ***It was suggested that area representatives could be appointed to share the work. supported by Members. To be adopted.***

#### **8. AOB**

As it was Ron Dalton's Birthday on the day of the meeting, the Chairman presented him with a Birthday Card and Gift.

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought 15 DVD's of classic films (in keeping with Those were the Days). The lucky winners: Keith Bell, Brian Sturrock and John Rhind chose 5 each.

Next Meeting is on Tuesday 15th July 2025 when Caroline Hardy will present, “The Railway That Got the World on Track”.

JE 17/6/2025