

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting
Coeliac UK Wessex Group
Crosfield Hall, Romsey
Saturday 30th March 2019

Introduction

Barbara Bainbridge, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the Group's 17th AGM. She welcomed the stand holders and Katie Powell, Specialist Dietitian at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester. Barbara advised that following the AGM Katie will give a presentation concerning the importance of Vitamin D in the diet and Katie will be happy to take questions on any aspect of diets for people with coeliac disease.

Apologies

Barbara advised, our secretary Judy Allen was unable to be with us due to illness. Apologies also received from Shirley James, Tammi Heals, Jeanette Collett, and Barbara enquired if there were any other apologies to record.

Minutes of AGM 14th April 2018

Barbara asked members if the minutes of the AGM held on 14th April 2018 were an accurate record. Proposed by Theresa Kemp and seconded by Alan Noble, this was agreed.

Group Organiser's Report

Barbara introduced Pauline Kidd, Group Organiser, who gave her report. Pauline spoke about the events organised during 2018 starting with the dinner at Eastleigh College in February when 53 guests were exquisitely dined and had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

The AGM was held in April at Badger Farm Community Centre and Shirley James from Lymington Hospital very kindly put herself in the 'Mastermind' chair with a lively question and answer session.

May saw Awareness Week Activities. The Committee supported the staff at Winchester, Lymington and Southampton Hospitals. They also attended the Marks and Spencer Gluten Free Evening.

In June a Family Fun Day at Chilworth Manor Southampton, was organised to celebrate Coeliac UK 50th Birthday. Glorious sunshine and blue skies greeted 130 members and family for a wonderful day which will be remembered for a long time. Chilworth Manor's grounds echoed with laughter from children and adults alike attempting the variety of games available. Osprey Roadshow provided nonstop 60s and 70s music, which got everyone toe tapping and some even dancing. We had a fantastic Hog Roast with all the trimmings followed by a wonderful variety of desserts. A children's Cartoon Hunt was also organised.

We had hoped to get members involved with the 50 Challenge but in the end two of the committee plus Amelia, the daughter of a committee member completed the challenge and raised over £500 for Coeliac UK.

Amelia also organised a cake sale at her school, the proceeds of which she donated to the Group.

The traditional fish and chip quiz night was held at North Baddesley. The Fish and Chips were delivered by Little Fryer and were thoroughly enjoyed. Alan Noble again excelled as question master. As usual there was a lot of good humoured banter.

Helen Lang entertained us to a Cookery Demonstration at Hedge End 2000 Centre in November. We all enjoyed sampling Helen's dishes and I am sure no one needed lunch when they got home.

During the year the Committee supported Southampton General Hospital with its monthly newly diagnosed clinics and Winchester Hospital at their quarterly clinics.

Throughout the year the committee have had to contend with all the challenges regarding the changes being implemented by Coeliac UK in connection with European directive GDPR. I must admit this has taken up a lot of our time and I am extremely grateful to everyone for their dedication and patience.

Pauline thanked everyone for their support in making the events a success and expressed her sincere thanks to the Committee and their respective families, for all their hard work during the year.

Barbara thanked Pauline for the report.

End of Year Accounts

The accounts had been circulated with the AGM notice and members had plenty of opportunity to examine the figures, therefore, Roger asked if anyone had any questions. No questions raised. Roger explained our events should be self-funding but in view of the significance of the 50th Anniversary of Coeliac UK the committee had agreed to subsidize the Family Fun Day to ensure as many members as possible could attend.

Proposed by John Abel and seconded by Alan Noble the accounts were approved with no objections.

Election of Committee Members

Barbara advised the following committee members were prepared to stand for re-election, Judy Allen, Roger Kidd, Pauline Kidd, John Kenshole, Caroline Benjamin, Janet Day and Wendy Johnston, together with Theresa Kemp who had been co-opted on to the committee during the year. Tammi Heals and Katie Bittlestone had also agreed to stand for election. Barbara advised she would not be standing for re-election. Barbara asked for all proposed committee members present to stand, and Katie Powell, our speaker, agreed to act as an independent witness. Voting was undertaken en bloc, there were no objections and the committee was duly elected for the forthcoming year.

Any other business

Pauline advised that Barbara was a founder committee member when the group was set up in September 2002 and gave a resume of Barbara's hard work and dedication to the Group. Pauline thanked Barbara and presented her with a garden voucher and card from her fellow committee members. Barbara thanked everyone for the gift.

There being no other business Barbara closed the official meeting at 10.50 am.