

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: **Tuesday 14th May 2019**
Time: **7:30pm**
Location: **Supermarine Sports & Social Club Supermarine Road,
South Marston, Swindon, SN3 4BZ**

1. Welcome

Martin Hiscock, the current Group Organiser, welcomed all those who attended. This included 18 local members, 4 members of the committee and Ellis Ward from Gluten Free Foods who was there to present after the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Lynda Keaney, Madeleine Lestrangle, Sue Mead and Milly the Guide Dog, Ann Collis, Laura Parsons and Margaret Stevenson.

3. Group Organiser's report

Martin mentioned that this was the first AGM of the group. He had contacted Coeliac UK in the summer of 2018 and asked whether a group was starting locally and as one was not could he initiate one? Coeliac UK agreed to this so Martin posted a message on a local Facebook page, some willing volunteers came forward and the first meeting was held in August 2018. The timescales the group set themselves was adventurous, the launch was booked for November, whereas some new local groups take up to 18 months to have their launch. The launch event went very well with over 100 people attending and there was much positive feedback received. However the group has struggled with attendance at events since, with just one person at the Christmas Social and four people at the Quiz in February. Martin suggested that as the committee had worked so hard in such a short space of time for the launch, they had burned themselves out, not giving the same amount of motivation and commitment for gaining attendance at subsequent events. This AGM is the perfect event to reinvigorate the committee for the year ahead.

Martin apologised that we had to move the venue away from the school that was previously publicised for the location of the AGM. Unfortunately the timing of this event and school exams meant that we would be moved to

another hall with small 'primary school' seats and the committee did not feel that would be suitable.

There is one future event in the pipeline, the Summer Picnic at Lydiard Park. Martin asked whether some Coffee Mornings would be appreciated, those attending welcomed the idea.

It was suggested that the committee should look to arrange a cookery demo, with simple not complex offerings, so they should look to book a venue with a kitchen.

4. Secretary's report

Cara had recently stood down from the Secretary role so Martin provided the update. He started by first publically thanking Cara for her work on the committee performing key tasks that helped the group get off the ground. Cara spoke to many, many venues of all different sizes across the town prior to the booking of the launch, and the group aim to use that vital source of information for future events.

We now have access to Coeliac UK 'cloud' service which provides us with webmail, access to the Microsoft Office Suite and is a location where we can store all our local documents and access some Coeliac UK documents.

Martin asked how people were made aware of the AGM, the large majority was by the letter recently sent out, a few by the email circulated and a couple by Social Media. Martin asked that those who received the letter but do have an email address please share this with us to help reduce our workload and costs.

5. Treasurer's report

Claire Huckerby-Brown, the current group Treasurer provided the update on the finance. There was some great fundraising at our launch night for which Claire thanked those attending, and we had received some very good support from gluten-free companies such as Schar. On the downside there has been no more donations/funds in since launch night so we need continued support to keep this group active and to fund fun activities.

Our closing balance is £353.45. Our income has been £250 Coeliac UK Start up fund and £282.95 at Launch night (£211 raffle, £49.55 entry donations, £22.40 refreshments), a total of £523.95. Our outgoings are £89.50 Quiz night expenses (pens, gift certificates), £40 raffle float, £50 AGM hall hire, a total of £179.50, although there may be some launch costs that we may have to pay, costs which originally Coeliac UK said that they would settle which they now decline to.

It was suggested that the committee could ask members to supply some raffle prizes, this had been used by the previous Swindon group. Claire agreed that it was something that we could consider.

6. Election of Committee

Martin Hiscock, Claire Huckerby-Brown, Louise Harney and Lisa Evans all agreed to stand in their existing committee roles, with no opposition they were all voted in. Suzanne Marshall has also been on the committee, Martin has been unable to make contact with Suzanne recently as her phone numbers are coming up disconnected. He assumes Suzanne will continue in her role but will clarify this when contact has been made.

One nomination had been received for the vacant Group Secretary Role from Zoe Thomas. This was proposed by Martin Hiscock and seconded by Trevor Holliday.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8:05pm