

THE GRASSHOPPER PENSIONERS' CLUB



**MARTINS
BANK**

Website: www.martinsbank.co.uk

© gut informiert!

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Later Autumn Edition 2024

**IN THIS EDITION:
OUR HEAD OFFICE BUILDING
2023 AGM MINUTES
2024 ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING AGENDA**



MARTINS BANK BUILDING

Tony McDonough OF The Liverpool Network reports

Developer Kinrise pulls out of multi-million pound project to transform the Martins Bank office scheme in Liverpool with main investor now seeking a new contractor.



The Martins Bank Building in Liverpool is to undergo a major transformation

Developer Kinrise has pulled out of the multi-million pound project to transform the historic Martins Bank building in Liverpool into a small business hub.

In a joint venture with London property investor Karrev; Kinrise acquired the 210,000 square feet Grade II-listed building in Water Street in August 2021. It then embarked on a major publicity push to showcase its plans for the site.

Originally due for completion in 2024, the developer revealed the site would be home to community-focused spaces, hospitality outlets and 95,000 square feet of office space, offering floorplates of up to 17,500 square feet.

Kinrise also said it was seeking a high-profile restaurant partner to occupy the grand banking hall on the ground floor. It was previously occupied by Barclays Bank

(Editor: But we cannot forget its original owner can we?)

However, Kinrise, which successfully secured planning consent for the scheme, and Karrev have now agreed to part-company with the latter party taking full control of the project. It is understood Karrev will soon issue a tender for the work.

It isn't clear what impact this will have on the timetable for the scheme. LBN has attempted to contact both Kinrise and Karrev for comment. Joint agents on the project are Avison Young and CBRE.



The banking hall inside the Martins Bank Building in Liverpool



How part of the Martins Bank building will look after its refurbishment

Located next to Liverpool Town Hall, Martins Bank Building has been closed since 2009.

Despite numerous projects and ideas it has remained empty except for a handful of events and film sets.

Originally designed in 1927 as the headquarters for Martins Bank by Herbert J Rowse, who also designed India Buildings across the road, the site was later bought by Barclays in 1965 (Editor: Is that correct?), operating as their flagship Liverpool branch until 2009.

During World War II, Martins Bank performed a hugely important strategic function when its vaults were used to store the bulk of England's gold reserves, 280 tonnes, as part of Operation Fish.

It was part of an overall plan to move the country's wealth to Canada in the event of a German invasion.

In 2018 it was announced that the building's owners, Starwood Capital, had sold the building as part of a package of 14 properties to a French property company, Foncière des Régions.

UPDATE:

I am pleased to be able to advise you that, with the assistance of Sam Lawson Johnston, I have established contact with Olivier Scherb, the Assets and Developments Director at Karrev Management Ltd. and will provide further updates in due course. Although we have missed our deadline of our 55th Remembrance Lunch being held in our former Head Office building, we must plan for our 60th in 2029 followed by that when our former Head Office building will celebrate its 100th Birthday in 2032 in addition to a celebratory Lunch once the building's renovation has been completed.

IPSWICH

From the Spring 1950 Edition of The Martins Bank Magazine: *Our branch at Ipswich is housed in temporary premises, diagonally opposite the premises we hope one day to convert to our use. Nevertheless, the best use of the converted shop has been made, and fittings once used in the Ideal Homes Exhibition make the interior look attractive, the effect being friendly, cosy and cheery. There are several world-famous firms in Ipswich and we were not a little surprised to find that a big American engineering firm has established its works there. Our bank has steadily improved its footing in the old town, despite the fact that it is not well known in East Anglia where our representation is somewhat sparse. The Manager, Mr F W Burdon, is North-Easterner who entered the Bank in 1923 and served at Willington, Newcastle City Office, Tyne Dock, Jarrow, on the District General Manager's Staff, High Street Gateshead and Prudhoe, before going South in 1936. His service in the South includes London itself, Bournemouth and District Office Relief Staff. He went to Ipswich in 1939, being appointed Acting Manager and Clerk in Charge in 1941. Then followed a period of military*



service, with the R.A.F. from 1943 to 1946, his appointment as Manager dating from October 1946. Mr K.V. Amatt entered the Bank at Ipswich in 1945, and served with the R.A.F. from 1946 to 1948. He divides his spare time between playing hockey and studying for the Institute of Bankers' Examinations. The only girl at the Branch is Miss M.L. Perks who entered the service in July 1940 at Ipswich, thus having completed nearly ten years at the Branch. She has passed all her Bankers' examinations and acts as typist and cashier. Her passbook statements are a model of what statements to customers should be, and we are confident that no better work will be found anywhere. Outside banking hours she is a keen member of the St John's Ambulance Association and performs a spell of duty each week at the local hospital as well as competing in local and county contests. We had a pleasant lunch with Mr Burdon, stopping to look at a fifteenth-century architectural showpiece of the town on our way back, while K.V. Amatt and Miss Perks did the work, and took our departure just before 3pm taking back with us the memory of a very pleasant visit.

I was in Ipswich recently and managed to find our two former



branches. (Right) Our original temporary branch at 11, Buttermarket (11-386) and (left) 6, Buttermarket (11-95-40) which, as you can see, is now a 'Halifax' branch (11-04-05).



MEMORIES

Every time your welcome Newsletter arrives with an article about signs and grasshoppers, I mean to contact you concerning a very large wall-mounted Martins sign in Plymouth.

The old branch is diagonally opposite to the main Barclays branch and our branch became Barclays then Top Shop and now – I know not!! I don't know if it is worth reclaiming or if the archive already has a few!

I left the bank in August 1971 to join an International Merchant Bank led by JH Jennings, for whom I had earlier worked in the Head Office Box (Superintendent of Branches Department) when he was the General Manager in 4, Water Street responsible for the Manchester and Birmingham Districts and the four in the 'Box' worked to prepare lending



proposals from their District General Managers' for presentation to the Board on the day of arrival!! Quite exacting!

My first assignment in MAIBL (Midland and International Banks Limited) was to generate lending opportunities in the four Nordic



countries, particularly in Norway and Sweden that 'ARW' (Arthur) Wetherell (left) (for whom I had also worked in Liverpool Foreign) and who had been busy distributing 'Desk Grasshoppers', as all the heads of those banks had one

on their desks! Whilst a little envious (peevd even) that having worked for the Bank for 20 years, I hadn't had one. The association did, however, smooth my introduction to them and to some new business I think.

I did not see any during my travelling to more than 50 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia, but I did eventually receive a 'desk grasshopper'.

Arthur, of course, post-retirement represented in London one of the Norwegian Banks (Andresens Bank A/S) and I can well understand his allegiance to that most lovely country and people (after New Zealand) my favourite. *Tom Gilkes*

And more from *Raymond R Prior*:

When **Leslie Stones** (now 91) and I (now 92) started as Juniors at 27 Market Place, Huddersfield (Manchester District) in September 1949, **VERNON R. NORTON** was thus enabled to move up one desk, so I was very interested to read of his times at **Cheetham, Sale and Old Trafford**.

In 1952, I was to succeed Vernon on that 'One Desk'. In the meantime I had worked at Clayton West sub-branch with its *infamous wash-basin*, serving for purposes of relief. NO!! The sub-branch was infamous, the wash-basin the opposite.

(Your memories really do count and bring back the happy times that we all enjoyed working for Martins, so please do keep them coming).

WHAT A RECRUITMENT OFFICER!

(I SUPPOSE IF WE ACTUALLY HAD ONE)

About whom am I speaking? None other than Manchester's George Hamilton! I must also mention David Baxter for his efforts)

Since our last Newsletter, I have been inundated with Membership applications from our following former colleagues who now reside

in and around that other County (Please accept my apologies in case I have caused any unintended offence)

We welcome:

Pauline Skilling (nee **Marfleet**)

Joan Marie Jacobs (nee **Boardman**)

Richard Brooks

Wallace Kaye

And last but, certainly not, least:

Brian Cook.

The then **Pauline Marfleet** joined at our Moss Side branch in Manchester in 1966 when FW



Mrs Skilling (1967)



FW Sharples



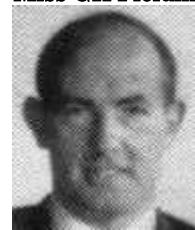
Miss GK Fielding



CJ Walsh



Miss J Simpson



EJ Mellor



Sharples was the Clerk-in-Charge and her fellow members of staff included: **Miss G.K. Fielding, Mr. C.J. Walsh, Miss J. Simpson and Mr. E.J. Mellor.**

I'm certain that it would be interesting to learn if Pauline is still in touch with

any of her former colleagues from her **Moss Side (above left)** days and is able to convince them to become members.

Joan Boardman started her Martins career at our **Hightown**, Manchester branch in 1962 before being transferred to both **Queen's Park** and **Brown Street** in 1963 before settling at **Cheetham** in 1966 and I hope that these images



Hightown



Queen's Park



Brown Street



Cheetham

of the branches at which Joan worked will bring back many happy memories from her Martins' days.

We also welcome **Richard Brooks**, who joined Martins in 1966 at our Westgate, Huddersfield branch,



where Standard Fireworks held their account. Could any of our branches have held



a more 'Seasonal Account' as that! Perhaps you might know of another?

Wallace Kaye writes: I started my career at Dewsbury branch in 1949, aged 16. The salary



scale started at £140 per annum at 'Age 17' which meant that I only received £130 per annum until I was 17. I then moved to Mirfield before National Service in the RAF, following which I was transferred to Market Place Huddersfield then back to Dewsbury. 1958 found me at Headingley Branch in the Leeds District and then to Whitefriargate Hull in 1959 as 'Clerk in Charge' at Newland followed by a two year stint at Story Street (Hull) before a short stint at Hull Market Place branch in 1963. I was then transferred to Castleford

branch until the takeover. A General Manager's appointment meant another transfer to Trustee Department in Leeds at the Trust Company. I became Investment Manager at Radbroke Hall before refusing a transfer to London and retiring in 1993 and have now enjoyed receiving my Pension for over 30 years! And finally, **Brian Cook**. Brian's career started in Agency Section in 1961 before he moved to City Trustee in 1962. Brian was also a member of our London District Table Tennis Team and were featured in the 1963 Winter Edition of our Staff Magazine with the following editorial:

After a victorious second season the men's



Back row (left to right): Brian Cook, J.S. Anderson. Front row: M. Barker, B. Linsley (captain), A. Williams

competing this year against the stronger teams of the Second Division of the London Banks' League. Last year they played 192 games and lost only 31, winning 40 games more than their nearest rivals. This year they have won only 1 match out of 3 played and it would therefore appear that they have at least found their level.

SOME MEMORIES FROM:

Barbara Hannah: (Prompted by Jackie Chubb's 'Youngest Member' article)

Aged 16, I started in August 1952 (a year after Jackie was born!) at **Queen's Park, Rochdale Road, Manchester**. The Manager was Clarence Spencer, who also managed **Collyhurst** and **Harpurhey**, both also on Rochdale Road. On arrival, I was told that I cooked lunches for the five staff (I didn't even make a cup of tea at home).

When I was out (cashing any Postal Orders at the local Post Office) I bought meat



from the butcher,



G.M. Moss



P.J. Grey



R. Ashburn



Miss C.A. Fairlie



Miss M. Moores

[The staff featured in the photograph \(bottom left\)](#)

vegetables, from the grocer and cakes (for after) at the bakery. Whilst keeping an eye on the cooking, on an old gas cooker in the cellar next door to the round iron stove (the coal coming through a round iron grid in the pavement above) I had to keep stoking the stove throughout the day for it to heat the radiators.

I also sorted the vouchers in the strongroom, with the door open, having first hauled the ledgers upstairs from the strongroom on a rope pulley-document hoist (all 7 stones 4 pounds of me).

Later in the day, I balanced the 'waste' write-up statements, entered the mail in the Post Book and answered the telephone.

But I loved every minute of it!

I retired aged 54 as Secretary to Local Directors Tony Smith and David Whittaker

Sincerely, *Barbara Hanna*

The branches that Barbara mentions:



Collyhurst



Harpurhey

And now, [Barry Hopkins](#) writes:

The publication, which seems to be expanding in terms of submissions from former employees at all levels....very good.

The 'chap' who worked at 4, Water St., in 'the Sunshine Room', in the basement (almost a touch of Scouse humour) but it was well lit and very spacious and of course being in the Head Office, I was going to say with good 'canteen' facilities but of course it was more of a

restaurant with very good food (think Directors Dining room each day) so well looked after.

Yes, it was the winter of '63, I remember it well and also travelled each day by ferry doing the sort of circular walk (in that winter?) with the ferry ploughing through ice!! [Editor: [Gerry & The Pacemakers - Ferry Cross The Mersey \(1965\) \(youtube.com\)](#) springs to mind; click on the link to bring back memories of those times]. But of course enter that superb building and everywhere was lovely and warm, heating in the walls I believe but a winter I still recall.

Betty Hamer: (in the 'obits') Quite frequently we would catch the same bus home together to Heswall, she at that time was one of the Secretaries to the Managers (including me at one stage).

Oh, first sub-branch I worked in at times it was so quiet I used to play chess with the Clerk-in-charge (Manager).

'Mike' (Michael) Sharp

[\(Memories of Mike from Bill Webb, Bill Steele and the Martins Bank Archive\)](#)

Mike died after a truly valiant and inspirational battle with cancer.

Starting his Martins career at Dunston branch in 1963, Mike moved on to North Eastern Relief staff in early 1964 before being transferred to Shotley Bridge later that year and then Newcastle City Office in 1966.

Subsequently he became something of an expert in the science of CWIP, the Barclays Clerical Work Improvement Programme, initially at Regional level before returning to branch banking for a short period then to the National team.

The experience gained made him an ideal candidate the demanding role of operations Manager at North St Brighton and hence a move to savour the delights of living in Sussex

A successful tour of duty allowed him to transfer his Managerial skills to the Personal sector firstly at Gatwick and then to a Premier team from which Mike retired.

He had a wide range of interests including that of an enthusiastic gardener to which he introduced his grandson at a very early age. A man devoted to his family.

On the sporting front he remained loyal to his roots and even named his house 'Magpies', after Newcastle United FC. Despite this, Mike still found time to become a season ticket holder at Brighton and Hove Albion. He was a keen Golfer and enjoyed the benefit of living within

walking distance of the two courses of Royal Ashdown.

One of our last times together was watching County Cricket at Hove for Sussex v Yorkshire and he still maintained his links with Round Table.

He gave freely of his time and talents becoming a Senior Examination Invigilator for The University of Sussex. Mike was the Grasshoppers' Treasurer for seven years between 2009 and 2016, during which time ably supported by Elaine arranged for our three Club Sunday lunches down the Thames.

His contribution to our Club was immense and we have lost a true friend, but this is of nothing to the loss suffered by Elaine and his immediate family to whom we offer our deep sympathy. *Bill Web former Chairman*

Mike and I playing footy together was to enable me to highlight his great sense of humour which he kept up until the end.

Mike's eyesight has never been good and when we played football together he would wear a pair of very old NHS glasses, the simple wire type, similar to those that Benny Hill used to wear. Mike played in defence and I was in goal. During one game in particular, of several in which we played, that I can recall; Mike turned to me and said: *"I can't see Bill, my glasses have steamed up, which way are we kicking? Can you point me in the right direction."*

This type of comment was very typical of Mike, joking even at the most critical of times. He never lost this humorous side.

To sum him up: **MIKE WAS A FUN GUY**. He was great to be with and someone who I will miss greatly. *Bill Steele*

In Bill's eulogy at Mike's funeral, Bill reminded the congregation of one of Mike's special fundraising efforts when he arranged a *'Shopping Trip'* by train from Newcastle to London that he told me about one evening on our CWIP Course. It was a joint effort between Stanley Round Table (of which Mike was a member) and another local Round Table. Although I can't remember the final number of carriages that were provided by British Rail, it expanded substantially from the original four. Mike was advised that although the train, including the Driver and Guard would be provided by British Rail, Mike and his fellow Round Table members would need to provide everything else and **HE CERTAINLY DID**, in a typical Mike manner. Catering and with an extra special

treat in the Guard's Van which somehow led to the details of the, by then, infamous Special Train finding its way into **The News of the World!**

Mike certainly was 'One of a kind' and will be missed, but fondly remembered, by everyone who crossed his path. *David Baldwin*

MEMORABILIA

Offers of Martins Memorabilia are received on a regular basis and more than welcome. They are first offered to Jonathan Snowden's 'Martins Bank Archive' but, if duplicated, then Club members for their own collections.

Recently, following the death of Julian Taylor, I was contacted by his son who asked if Julian's collection of Money Boxes were of any use to anyone. I gratefully accepted the offer and, to date two of Julian's Martins oval money boxes have found their way into two of our members' personal collections and a Barclays DCO South African money box has been gratefully accepted by Barclays' Archive. Donations have been made to charities of their choice in respect of the Martins money boxes which continues to illustrate that 'Martins go to extremes to be helpful'.

Julian's Martins Memorabilia continues to provide support to The RNLI through donations made by members who have received Martins Money Boxes from Julian's collection. Is there a better way for memorabilia to be shared when of no longer use to you but they could be by someone else?



MEMORIES of HANOVER SQUARE

(From Brenda Newson, nee Sinfield)



Back Row: J G Buckley, A S Potts, P R Punter, F C Rouse, K Hatch, J Churchland, D Coord, C Brett. Front Row: P A Cawsey (Pro Manager), E L Ridley, Miss H Clarke, Miss J Parker, Miss B Davis, Mrs S A Inwood, Miss J Moss, Miss F Merriman, Mrs K Beaumont, R Newson, P R Mercier
In Front of Counter: J Wilson (Manager), Miss M Roberts, N B Bill, (Assistant Manager), E C Vodden (Messenger), Miss M P Harper

Brenda emailed me to advise me of her husband's death and aslo added that she too was a former member of Martins **staff*** and I will let Brenda take up the story: Richard

sadly passed away last October, aged 76, after a short stay in hospital. He joined Martins Bank in February 1964 at No 5 Hanover Square, London W.1, where he progressed through the various junior rolls. The branch itself was in the process of being redeveloped, with the new building being constructed around the old.

A favourite story goes that the Manager, John Wilson, went out on a business lunch one day and came back to find the branch closed, with a "Dangerous Premises" notice on the door. Apparently a crack had opened up in the side wall through which you could see daylight and put your fist.



It was deemed unsafe to continue work and the staff were evacuated to Oxford Circus branch. Luckily the new premises at No. 6 Hanover Square were nearly ready for occupation and the staff were able to move back into the new branch a couple of weeks later. I believe the branch now occupies Nos 7 & 8 Hanover Square.

Richard's career continued through the takeover by Barclays at various branches in the London Pall Mall District with a couple of stints with Inspection Department (London Eastern and Law Department) and Barclays Overseas (Northumberland Avenue). His final posting was at Piccadilly Circus Branch as Senior Operations Manager. His claim to fame there was that the branch had the highest daily turnover of cash of any Bank in the country. On one occasion a specialist cleaning company, giving the eight foot crystal chandelier hanging in the banking hall, its annual overhaul managed to do a "Del Boy" resulting in tiny pieces of glass shattering all over the marble floor.

Richard left the bank in 1991, when there was a rationalisation of West End branches, and later went on to teach Accounting at North

West Kent college. He finally retired in 2006 and enjoyed travelling and gardening and playing with our grandchildren.

I should mention that I joined Martins Bank on 2nd January 1967 at Hanover Square branch as a secretary, where of course I met Richard. I was just 16 years old at the time, having been born in May 1950 and stayed for 2 years. I think that possibly gives me the right to claim youngest Female pensioner and I hope this is of interest to you.

(Editor: Your emailed comments were certainly of interest to me Brenda and I'm certain that they will also be of interest to many of our members who worked with both yourself and Richard. Thank you for sharing them and, if you are still in contact with any of your former colleagues, and those of Richard, please urge them to become members)

If you are wondering why I have highlighted: **staff*** earlier in this article, I will explain. It is usually when I am advised of the death of a male member of staff that their widow mentions that she too worked for Martins. Can I ask any male members who's wives worked for Martins and are not yet members to make contact with me so that we can rectify the situation.

DEATH NOTICES

It is with regret that I have to advise you of the following deaths:

BARFOOT, John on 6th July 2024 aged 93
NEWSON, Richard John on 22nd October 2023 aged 76

A QUESTION FOR SOME OF OUR MEMBERS



I am aware that several of our members actually worked at this branch, where two of these signs used to hang, but can you identify the location? Both signs were originally held by Jonathan Snowden in are now

in the process of being restored another 'friend of the Archive', Michael Phelan. Michael, who purchased our former branch in Grange-over-Sands and converted it into his home, has accumulated many items of Martins memorabilia



over the years which are now on display in his home. As a result of Michael's kind offer, to restore both of the signs without charge, Jonathan has agreed to donate one of them to Michael once its restoration is complete.

RESERVATION FOR THE 2024 55th REMEMBRANCE, NORTHERN GRASSHOPPERS LUNCH

To be held on:

**MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024 at
THE OAKWOOD HALL HOTEL, Lady Lane, Bingley BD16 4AW**

The deadline for returning your reservation is FRIDAY 24th November 2023

WINES: Merlot or Sauvignon Blanc (or Beer if preferred)

This year we have a choice! Please confirm your preferences by email or Royal Mail.

		CONFIRM YOUR CHOICE
TO START	Garlic Mushrooms with a Crusty Roll	
	Chilled Melon, Fresh Fruit and Sorbet	
	Deep Fried Brie with a Salad Garnish	
MAIN	Poached Salmon Veronique (Creamy White Wine Sauce with Grapes)	
	Turkey Sinatra with a Tomato Sauce and Gruyere Cheese	
	Quorn Cannelloni	
	Vegetarian Lasagne	
Seasonal Vegetables will be served with the Appropriate Dishes		
DESSERT	Christmas Pudding with Rum Sauce	
	Crème Brulee	
	Fresh Fruit Salad	
Freshly Filtered Coffee/Tea and Chocolates		

Please contact me should you prefer an alternative vegetarian option and I will see what others are available

Please tick the appropriate box if you require an alternative option:

Diabetic		Gluten Free		Vegetarian	
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Bar available from 12.00 Noon until 4.00 p.m. Luncheon will be served at 1 p.m.

Please advise me should you prefer Beer before Lunch

Cost: FREE TO MEMBERS. £10.00 per Guest. 1 Guest per Member.

These prices include table wine, beer or fruit juice and gratuity.

Please state your preference to ease administration: Red, White, Beer, Fresh Orange Juice

RESERVATION FOR THE NORTHERN DECEMBER LUNCH

Please return your Reply Slip to arrive before the closing date of 7th November 2023 to:

Mr. D Baldwin, Lower Windle, Windle Royd Lane, Warley, Halifax, HX2 7LY OR BY EMAIL TO ME

AT: grasshoppers@btinternet.com Please reserve me place(s) for the Lunch at The Oakwood Hall,

on Wednesday, 7th December 2022 for which I enclose my cheque payable to The Grasshopper

Pensioners Club for £..... and confirm that I was a member of Martins Bank Staff on or before

12th December 1969. Please tick this box to confirm I am /am not a member of The Grasshopper

Pensioners' Club. Please tick this box to confirm Names of those attending (capital letters please)

..... (Member/Guest)

(Member/Guest) My contact number:My email address:

..... Seating preference (This cannot be guaranteed but

I will make my best effort to ensure that it is.) Name(s): I would like to sit with

.....

..... To assist with catering do you have a wine

preference for yourself and guest(s)? Numbers: Red White Fruit Juice

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY IN RESPONDING AS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OUR BOOKING, WE REGRET THAT CANCELLATIONS OR REFUNDS

CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER

YOUR CHEQUES WILL BE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT ON FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER.

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN PAY DIRECTLY INTO OUR ACCOUNT AT: 20-31-52 a/c: 80540137

INSERTING: BINGLEY IN THE REFERENCE FIELD, AS YOUR NAME(S) WILL BE

AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDED WITH YOUR PAYMENT

MINUTES of the 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday 23rd November in 'The McIntosh Room' the Union Jack Club **MINUTES**

1. Welcome: Bernard Lovewell, our Chairman, opened the Meeting by thanking our members and their guests for attending.

2. Apologies for Absence: Alan Thomond (The Secretary apologised as there were others that he still needed to find)

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM: The printed copies of the Minutes were read and accepted by those present.

4. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report: Bernard confirmed that we would continue to arrange functions at venues around the country for our members and their guests in order to cater for our ageing membership to enable that as many members as possible would be able to attend and meet their former colleagues. He thanked our Committee Members for their continued support and their efforts, which ensured that the Club could and would continue to function. In conclusion, Bernard paid respects to Susan Sutcliffe for her role as our Welfare Officer, when she stepped-in to ensure that the Club would continue to function for the benefit of its members and, finally, mentioning the role that Arthur Rowe had played in ensuring that, as a Member of the Union Jack Club, the cost of hiring the function rooms was reasonable for a central London location.

6. Treasurer's Report: (Read by the Secretary in Alan Thomond's unavoidable absence). May I start by apologising for being unable to be with you in person today and thank David for delivering this report on my behalf.

In 2022, we were back to normal following the three years of disruption caused by COVID. Robert Bunn retired at last year's AGM and I accepted the role. Although we continue to have a substantial surplus, 2024 will be the 55th Anniversary of our takeover by Barclays and I believe that we should offer all of our members a benefit, which should be discussed at this AGM. New members continue to join our Club, but with the youngest being at least 70 years of age, 'Lifetime Membership' for £5 must be considered as becoming dated and I would suggest that we agree to cancel this cost to new members joining our Club from 1st January 2024, with which I trust you will agree. Although the completion of the renovations to our former Head Office building has been delayed, and will not be completed until 2025, I believe that we should offer our members who attend our functions a benefit at our 2024 'Remembrance Lunches' in December 2024. With our 'Guests' obtaining the same benefit as our members but, for whom we cannot claim any funding, I also believe that the structure should be revised and would like to propose that cost for attending should be: Member £10.00 Guest £30.00 This would mean that our members who ask a guest to accompany them will be paying precisely the same as they do at present whilst our members, who attend in their own right, will benefit from a reduced cost. The removal of the Membership Fee, when coupled with a two tier pricing structure, may also result in the addition of a few 'new' members who, though former Martins staff, have attended as a guest. This year, our membership numbers have increased yet again from areas outside London and, as Robert did last year, I believe that this geographical spread must continue to be recognised, with the areas outside London having been the source of the surplus generated this year. I must also thank our Committee members for continuing not to claim any expenses when attending our functions and collecting items donated by members.

7. Secretary's Report: The Secretary had nothing to report

8. Welfare Officer's Report: Before her untimely death, Sue Sutcliffe had nothing to report.

Our Secretary, David Baldwin, said that he has been dealing with a complex problem for one of our members and asked if our members would support him in writing to the Pension Fund Trustees in support of a member saying that for obvious reasons of confidentiality he could not disclose the problem. The members present gave their unanimous support.

9. Election of Officers: As the current Officers were willing to stand for re-election and Ken Quirk had offered to become our Welfare Officer, as there were no other nominations the current Officers were re-elected en-masse.

10. Election of Auditor: It was unanimously agreed that our Treasurer should obtain a third party, to audit the Club's Accounts.

11. Any Other Business:

PROPOSALS:

a. Cancellation of Membership Fee: For former colleagues becoming members of the Club, it was proposed that the £5 Membership Fee should not be charged with effect from 1st January 2024.

Passed unanimously.

With a sudden surge in new membership applications, following the 2023 end-of-year lunches, the membership Fee was waived by the Secretary for all of our new members. **Can my ultra vires actions be ratified at the 2024 AGM?**

b. Future 'Function Fees': As a 'Members' Club', it was felt that Members should benefit from any savings that could be obtained. With effect from 1st January 2024, Function Fees will be: Members £10; Guests £30.

Effectively, this would mean that there would be no change for Members who invite a Guest, as their guest would not be expected to pay, and would continue to pay £40 whilst Members would only pay £10 and thereby obtain their deserved benefit from being a Member. **Passed by the majority of members with only one dissention.**

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 13.10

THE GRASSHOPPER PENSIONERS' CLUB 2023 ACCOUNTS

			YEAR 2022
INCOME			
Grants	4,182.75		5,070.00
	1,265.66		919.60
	3,336.74	8,785.15	2,424.40
Joining Fees		80.00	95.00
Interest on Deposit account		20.11	
	<u>8,885.26</u>		<u>8,509.00</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Bingley Lunch	1,231.96		
Less Member Contributions	540.00	691.96	228.00
Liverpool December Lunch	1,984.80		
Less Member Contributions	740.00	1,244.80	1,015.00
London June Lunch / AGM	0.00		
Less Member Contribu	0.00	0.00	1,441.00
London December Lunch	1,909.75		
Less Member Contributions	500.00	1,409.75	1,805.75
Manchester Lunch	1,564.50		
Less Member Contributions	720.00	844.50	853.00
Waverley Boat Trip	486.00		
Less Member Contributions	188.80	297.20	
Stationery		124.07	51.59
Postage		449.97	622.87
Newsletter Printing		827.36	965.00
Website		574.54	241.60
Admin		160.00	0.00
		<u>£6,624.15</u>	<u>£7,223.81</u>
Total NET Expenditure		<u>£2,261.11</u>	<u>£1,285.19</u>
Surplus for the Year		<u>£8,885.26</u>	<u>£8,509.00</u>
£1,811.11 Balance at Bank		<u>£16,681.62</u>	<u>£14,870.51</u>

BANK ACCOUNT

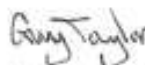
As At 1/1/2023	14870.51	
		£14,870.51
ADD Surplus for the year		2,261.11
Add prepayments from 2022		300.00
		<u>£17,431.62</u>
AS At 31/12/23		
CURRENT	£661.51	
BPA	£16,020.11	
	<u>£16,681.62</u>	
Prepayments 2024		£750.00
		<u>£17,431.62</u>

For and on behalf of the Committee



Alan Thomas - Honorary Treasurer

I have examined the books and vouchers for the year ended 31 December 2023 and verify that the foregoing is in accordance therewith



Guy Taylor - Honorary Accounts Examiner

ONE FINAL CALL!

HAVE YOU RESERVED YOUR PLACE(S) AT OUR FORTHCOMING LUNCHES?

**LONDON
MANCHESTER
LIVERPOOL
BINGLEY**

**Wednesday 20th November
Wednesday 4th December
Thursday 12th December
Monday 16th December**

Please don't leave it too late or you could be disappointed!