



MINUTES OF THE 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PHOENIX MASTERS ASSOCIATION

HELD ON THURSDAY 20th OCTOBER 2022 at Cutlers' Hall



The Phoenix President, Lord Mountevans, welcomed all those present to the 6th AGM of the Phoenix Masters Association.

He was delighted to see so many Phoenix members present at Cutlers' Hall with Past Master Cutler Janek Wichtowski as host. On behalf of all those present, he thanked all the current committee for their constant dedication to Phoenix which is much appreciated by the members.

He explained that he looked forward to presiding over the AGM but unfortunately, he could not stay to dine due to family commitments.

50 members of Phoenix were present for the AGM, with all booked for dinner afterwards. Apologies had been received by the Hon Sec from several members.

Chairman, Mark Chambers:

The Chairman gave an upbeat report on the state of the Association and thanked our President for presiding at this 6th AGM. Membership is 110 which includes our three honorary members.

A copy of our current photobook is available at:

<https://www.firebirds.london/firebirds-picture-book>

He thanked all the committee for their support and organising an interesting portfolio of events.

In particular, he thanked Elizabeth Green for her commitment to the Phoenix committee following her retirement in late 2022. He was delighted to announce that we would be welcoming Patricia Edmunds as our new committee member at our next meeting on 20th January 2023.

The Chairman made reference to the Becket Pageant for London in Guildhall Yard - June 17-18 2022 which had been master-minded by Past Master Skinner Emmeline Winterbotham. She was supported by a steering group which includes fellow Phoenixes Mark Chambers and Mark Spofforth.

There was considerable Phoenix involvement in this event. Mark Chambers organised the Livery Craft Fair. Mark Spofforth looked after the accounts. David Pearson together with other Marketors helped with the planning and the publicity. Peter Thompson was one of the cast. Above all, of course, Emmeline Winterbotham wrote, produced and directed the play.

Election of officers

Our three current officers have all indicated their willingness to serve another 3 year term:

Mr Mark Chambers as Chairman
Isobel Pollock-Hulf as Hon Secretary
Mr Patrick Reeve as Hon Treasurer

The meeting wholeheartedly supported their re-election and our President thanked them for continuing to volunteer their services to Phoenix.

The minutes of the previous AGM in 2021 were approved.

Finance

The Honorary Treasurer, Patrick Reeve, was travelling in Bhutan and unable to present the Financial Statement for the year to 30 September 2022 in person.

In his absence, the commentary on the financial report was presented by John Nugée.

The September year-end bank balance was £12,140 and is higher than Patrick would usually aim for, largely due to an unexpected surplus on the HQS Wellington lunch where the caterers had been generous in their charging rates. Patrick would hope to work the surplus down to more like £10,000, but this might take a couple of years (not least because we have another £2,600 coming in from subscriptions later this autumn).

Those present supported the plan to continue the annual membership fee at £25 / per member.

John, as events organiser, outlined the challenges of costing events in the current economic climate. Those present approved of the general idea of keeping prices for events as low as possible (in other words consciously aiming to run them at a loss/subsidised rate), and had no other issues in approving accounts.

Almoner report

Bill Mahony, on behalf of the Almoner team, reported that they had been offering support to a few of our members.

Bill also wishes to personally thank his Almoner team for their great efforts in covering for him and maintaining the almoner service in his absence. Whilst he was unwell, almoner activities continued with, in particular, Hugh Moss and Jenna Davies continuing to send the birthday cards to members on significant birthday dates.

Note, participation in this is strictly voluntary. If you would like to be included, please send an email with your full date of birth to Bill Mahony, on almoner@phoenixmasters.london.

The President thanked the Almoner team for all their work, usually behind the scene and thus unnoticed by the wider membership but is appreciated by recipients.

Events

John Nugée reported on the events which had taken place in the last 12 months, still heavily influenced by covid and now by transport strikes. All were considered a great success. He indicated events in positive planning before giving some feedback on the recent survey of members.

12/10/2021	5th Phoenix AGM & dinner	Bakers Hall
09/11/2021	"Convivial Lunch"	Le Beaujolais
09/12/2021	Talk on "Royal London"	Zoom
18/01/2022	Visit to Hayman's Gin Distillery, Balhamafterwards at a local restaurant	Balham
24/03/2022	"Convivial Lunch"	Le Beaujolais
09/05/2022	Spring lunch - Phoenix & Firebirds	HQS Wellington
June 2022	Becket Pageant for London	Guildhall Yard
27/07/2022	Phoenix/Firebirds Trip to Tenterden	
20/10/2022	6th Phoenix AGM & Dinner	Cutlers' Hall
Events in positive planning	Visit to Temple Bar, London – likely to be 25/01 Visit to Ashmolean, Oxford – likely to be 06/03	
Dates to be planned	"Convivial Lunch"	Le Beaujolais

Survey feedback:

53 members responded to the survey carefully prepared by James Allen and John Nugee. John summarised the key messages from the survey:

John said that in his view, overall the responses represented a clear vote for the status quo.

In particular he thought the replies indicated:

- A healthy Association, with nearly 50% of members (which means in effect much more like 75% of the active members) responding. This is very encouraging.
- There is a clear vote for a formal AGM and Dinner, in the evening, and without Firebirds (ie, exactly as now).
- There is a clear vote for an annual formal meal with our Firebird partners (ie, the bowl food was not a huge success), but less unanimity between lunchtime and dinner. He suggested we might alternate between the two, with 2023 being a dinner after the lunch event on Wellington in the spring.
- There is a clear vote for continuing the Convivial Lunches at 6-monthly intervals, but a small majority for changing to having just one of the two at Le Beaujolais and the other somewhere else.
- The frequency of day visits to places of interest (ie, 2 or 3 a year) is seen as about right.
- There is considerable support for longer trips requiring nights away (though a notable minority are clearly also value-conscious in their support).
- For longer trips, on balance the favoured pattern might be summarised as a triennial cycle of (a) a southern-England, 1-night trip in year 1 of the cycle (eg Exeter, Portsmouth), (b) a rest-of-GB, 1-2 nights trip in year 2 (eg Sheffield, York, Edinburgh), and (c) an overseas, 3 night trip in year 3 (eg Northern Ireland, Dublin, Europe, wherever).

A quick poll of the members present was conducted to see whether there was a higher level of support for some of the current suggestions. There was significant support for all the proposals.

i.e. visit to HMS Warrior, short 1 night trips, longer 2 night trips in UK, overseas visits especially NI and France.

The committee will continue and plan Phoenix events after reflecting on this very positive feedback.

Outreach and Purpose Committee

Past Master Marketor David Pearson highlighted that this group had benefited from a 5-year continuity and commitment. Our support for Samaritans continues and they are most grateful. A summary report of activities had been circulated in advance.

Closing remarks

With all business concluded, the President was delighted to reflect that Phoenix was in excellent order thanks to the dedication of the committee members and the leadership of our Chairman Mark Chambers.

He also thanked Past Master Janek Wichtowski for hosting us in Cutlers' Hall where we will shortly be summonsed to enjoy some champagne followed by specially selected wines and delicious food.

He apologised for being unable to join us due to an urgent "appointment at home to wish his son bon-voyage".

The President formerly closed the AGM meeting and thanked all members for attending.

Signed by:

Mark Chambers, Chairman, Phoenix Past Masters Association

Minutes prepared by Isobel Pollock-Hulf, Honorary Secretary, Phoenix Past Masters Association
30/12/2022

The **Phoenix Masters Association committee** is formed of the following individuals:

Mark Chambers - **Chairman**, Pewterers

Isobel Pollock-Hulf - **Hon Secretary**, Engineers

Patrick Reeve – **Hon Treasurer**, Girdlers

James Allen - Webmaster, Carriers

Mark Snelling - Membership Secretary, Joiners & Ceilers

John Nugée - Events Secretary, Weavers

David Pearson – Charitable activities, Marketors

Tim Haywood - Great 12 Liaison, Mercers

Janek Wichtowski, Cutlers

Elizabeth Green, Framework Knitters

Retired from the committee in 2022

Tony Ward, Painter-Stainers

Bill Mahony, Plaisterers

Nicholas Bull, Tallow Chandlers

Ian Makowski, Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers

Colin Reese, Bakers



*The Phoenix Picture Book is now available online!
Click [here](#) to see it*

The Masters Picture Books are available online at <https://www.liverypictures.com/>

The links below cover most of the Phoenix Masters

<http://www.centrally.co.uk/MPB7v.pdf>

<http://www.centrally.co.uk/MPB8v.pdf>

<http://www.centrally.co.uk/MPB9v.pdf>