

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Paphos Third Age

Held at

Avanti Hotel, Paphos on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 12:00pm

The Meeting was well attended.

The Meeting started at 12:00pm.

## **1. Welcome from the Chair:**

Welcome everyone to the 15th AGM of the P3A. We realise that this is not the most scintillating P3A event but is legally necessary and we thank all of you for your support in turning out. Thanks again go to Terry Spiby for the use of the Avanti Hotel facilities and thanks also go to our secretary Sue Lourensz for organising the formal proceedings of the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** 25 members sent apologies There was a list for members to see if they wished.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE AGM 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023:**

These were agreed and signed (Proposed by Mick Cotton and seconded by Terri Curtis). There were no matters arising.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** None.

## **5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:**

It is hard to believe that I have now completed three years as chair of the P3A and am now constitutionally required to stand down – time certainly flies. I was far from an obvious choice to be chair but at the time no-one else seemed willing to do it. When asked if I'd be willing I asked Ros, my wife, who had previously been chair, and she used an interesting analogy. For those of you who were familiar with the UK sit-com are you being served set in The Grace brothers departmental store, she said my role would be like that of young Mr. Grace. All I need to do is turn up at committee meetings and say "You're all doing very well". That was a slight understatement but probably covered about 90% of the job remit.

In fact turning up to committee meetings and saying "you're all doing very well" would never have been difficult to do, because they have not been. I have been extremely fortunate, and so has the P3A as whole, that during the last three years during my chairmanship the committees have been staffed by very dedicated, committed, responsive members with a good balance of experience and new blood. What I can say from my experience of

professional organisations, the P3A is a very competently and professionally led organisation and all done by members giving freely of their time.

I would like to thank all of those members who have been a part of the committees during my tenure as chair, those sitting at the front table today and those not present: Gill Kersse, our current treasurer, Karen Ikin who was secretary during my first year as chair, Suzanne Cousins who was a committee member last year and Derek Noronha, our technical officer.

As of 12<sup>th</sup> October we had 942 registered members – this is the highest number ever – of whom 561 (60%) had already renewed until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. The changes included 182 new members and 37 former members that have rejoined. There was a loss of 112 members made up of 16 resignations and 96 lapsed members who for one reason or another decided not to renew their membership by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 deadline. And sadly we were informed of two members who have passed away since 1<sup>st</sup> January this year. This level of turnover shows new members exactly the same as last year and rejoiners up by 10. Resignations are up by five from last year and lapsed members, down by just two. There will be another reminder sent out by the membership secretary to those who are yet to renew.

Well, one thing is very clear and indisputable, and that is during my tenure as chair, the organisation has flourished. However it is equally very clear and indisputable this success has nothing to do with me. It is directly a result of the enthusiasm and dedication of the group leaders and their assistance and the support given by group members. We currently have an impressive 46 groups operating in the organisation, offering a wide range of intellectual, physical and social activities. This includes three new groups that have started since the last AGM: a gardening group led by former garden centre manager Elli Lestas; a social tenpin bowling group led by Brenda Pattison and a chair yoga group led by Suzanne Cousins and taught by a professional yoga teacher. Two other groups that had been running independently also became part of the P3A, thus benefitting from our legally-established status and large pool of members: the Paphos Writers Group led by Rick Powell which brings together creative writers to share ideas and critique each other's work; and the Akamas Short Mat Bowls Club led by Steve Whitcombe which play league matches with other Cyprus teams, as well as taking part in international competitions. So many thanks go out to all the group leaders and their assistants. They are the engines of the P3A that make this such a successful organisation.

The organisation is very well represented on the internet through our website, which gives a good in depth view of all the groups and our excellent quarterly magazine Ad Lib. We also feature on the Wikipedia U3A page. This has resulted in us being contacted by several U3A type organisations wanted to understand how we operate. This is not particularly beneficial from our point of view and we have put a block on any further visits for the next year. But one thing that did become very clear from these visits was how much lower our costs were to our members. So we not only provide one of the widest ranges of activities in the U3A family, but also do so at the lowest cost.

Over the years the P3A has given me so much that it has been a privilege to give a least something back to the organisation. I wish the incoming committee every success in taking this great organisation forward.

**Any questions?** None.

#### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2024:**

Gill Kersse your Treasurer who is unable to join us today has asked me as your deputy chair to present her Treasurers report.

This is Gill's 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Treasurer and she would like to thank Fay Keddie for carrying out Auditor responsibilities.

Our financial year runs to 31 August. Our income is wholly generated from membership subscriptions which are used to cover all our expenses. As our membership numbers have increased then this has led to a 32% increase in our income over the last 12 months.

As for expenses (totalling 4,350 , nearly 2,000 less than the previous year ) a couple of items do stand out:

- a. Group Leaders lunch – 1,275 a 61 % increase on the previous year. This reflects the large increase in Groups which is a really good sign. Also last year we included the GDPR (*General Data Protection Regulation*) training at the lunch and a room charge was included in the total bill.
- b. AGM lunches – a minimum take up for the AGM lunch has led us to no longer offer this to members on AGM day.
- c. Licenses etc – Costs here have increased by 280%. The main reason for the increase is that we are now using Mailchimp for our emails.
- d. Allocation to groups – Our costs here have reduced by 57%

This has left our bank account in a very healthy position as accumulated funds at 31 August 2024 stand at 7,368 (an increase of 11% over 2023).

**Any Questions?**

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**

Motion 1: To keep the membership renewal at EUR 5.

This motion was proposed (Allen Robson), seconded (Karen Ikin) and approved.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:**

Motion 2: To appoint Fay Keddie as the P3A Auditor for 2024/5

This motion was proposed (Keith Brown), seconded (Bo Walker) and approved.

## **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS**

Motion 3: To approve the 2023/2024 P3A Accounts

This motion was proposed (Brian Chalcraft) and seconded (Keith Brown) and approved

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The next task is to announce the new committee. None of the nominations have been contested; therefore, the following members are elected to the committee unopposed. The new committee is:

Chair	David Richards
Vice-Chair/ Ad Lib Editor	Marian McEwen
Secretary	Sue Lourensz
Treasurer	Gillian Kersee
Membership Secretary	Dale Ikin
Groups Coordinator	Brian Chalcraft
Website Manager	Ros Sparrow
Committee Member	Keith McEwen

Technical Officer Sub-Committee with Groups Coordinator : Derek Noronha

The committee member who stepped down from Chair vacated his seat and the newly elected member remained at the committee table as the new Chair.

### **Comments from new Chair**

Hello everyone for those members who do not yet know me. I am your new Chair, David Richards. I would just like to say a few words.

My first action as Chair is to thank the outgoing Committee for their work over the last 12 months. I hope you will join me in offering a very special thanks to David Sparrow who, after 3 years as your Chair, is now passing that baton to me. I hope I can live up to his high standards. On behalf of all the members thank you David and we are pleased you will continue as a Group Leader.

So to the future now, I would like to extend a warm welcome to your newly elected committee and you can be sure that we will work together with all members to continue making P3A the vibrant entity that it already is.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thanks to all our Group Leaders for their work in planning and running their groups (they are after all the lifeblood of our organization). For your information we have arranged a Group Leaders meeting on 16 November.

Finally a big thank you goes to all you members here today who have offered up your time to attend. Let us all continue to make P3A our number one community organization.

Our final agenda item for today is:

**9. AOB:** Are there any questions from the floor? None.

**The meeting closed at 12.20pm**

SIGNED CHAIR David J. Richards

DATED 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025