

Metropolitan Police Friendly Society Limited

Annual General Meeting

6 June 2017

The 69th Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of the Society was held on Tuesday 6 June 2017 in the Gascoigne Room, Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London, SE1 8UJ. The meeting started at 12 noon and the following are the minutes:

Documents available at the meeting included copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016, copies of the Memorandum and Rules and copies of the draft minutes of the 68th AGM held on 12 May 2016.

1. Attendance

The Chair, Michael McAndrew QPM, welcomed the 23 members and 19 guests (including professional advisers) who were in attendance. All members of the Board of Management were in attendance.

Apologies had been received from: Bruce Perry and Mick Park who were unable to attend the meeting.

The Chair referred to the tragic events which had taken place in London and elsewhere during recent weeks and asked the audience to stand for a minute’s silence in memory of all the victims of violence and in particular Constable Keith Palmer who lost his life during the terrorist attack on the Palace of Westminster.

2. Chair’s Report

The Chair introduced all of the Directors to the meeting and encouraged members to meet up with them after the meeting during the buffet lunch. He then went on to explain the content of the meeting and the safety measures relating to the venue.

Mr McAndrew delivered his Chair’s speech drawing attention to the details of performance against our objectives as set out in the Annual report. He was pleased to point out the excellent investment performance that once again saw the Society’s assets under management rise to over £137 million at the end of 2016.

He pointed out that the Society had started to make progress in arresting the fall in membership with significant improvement in our penetration of the market opportunities provided by new recruits. He stated this was largely due to the efforts of Ben Grainger (Sales & Marketing Director) and his team as well as the business support team based at Orpington.

The Chair highlighted the issue of the change in the administration of Children’s Savings Plans which had caused some concern and complaints from the sponsors of these plans. Mr McAndrew explained that the Society had now changed the administration to bring it into line with Junior ISAs which requires the plan to be administered by a parent or guardian and by the child themselves once they reach the age of 16 years. This move, he explained had been brought about largely in light of recent changes to HMRC rules, the legislation governing friendly societies and the Metfriendly’s rules.

Mr McAndrew drew attention to personnel changes within the Board. Paul Deller from the Metropolitan Police Federation had resigned as a director at the end of 2016, mainly due to his heavy workload at the Police Federation.

The Chair also paid tribute to Peter Clarke who was stepping down after 10 years’ service on the Board, latterly as the Senior Independent Director.

Mr McAndrew made a point of informing the AGM that neither was being replaced by police officers as the increasing demands of financial regulation have made a professionally skilled Board an

essential element of good corporate governance. The Member Relations Committee would remain as the main conduit for linking with staff associations, the Metropolitan Police, the City of London Police and other police related organisations.

However, he was pleased to announce that the new Commissioner, Cressida Dick had agreed to be Metfriendly's President. Although largely an honorary role it is important in stressing the strong relationship between Metfriendly and the Metropolitan Police.

Mr McAndrew also informed the AGM that Simon Allford had left the Society to take up a post with another mutual organisation and that Ben Terrett would be joining as the new Finance Director at the beginning of July.

The Chair concluded by thanking his fellow Board members, Stuart Bell the Chief Executive Officer, his staff at Orpington, the Metropolitan Police Federation and the Superintendents' Association in London for their continuing and resolute support.

3. Presentation

Ben Grainger, the Sales & Marketing Director, then introduced the two guest speakers, Alex Holmes and Alex Wilman from Northstar who gave a presentation of the research they had recently carried out for Metfriendly to enable the Society to grow their knowledge and understanding of members and non-members; to understand how best to communicate to members and non-members; and to inform future product and service developments.

4. CEO report

Stuart Bell then addressed the meeting and informed the AGM that Metfriendly was investing in new systems to serve our customers better as well as recruiting people experienced in financial services and in member engagement.

Mr Bell told the meeting that Metfriendly's growth as laid out in the Strategic Report had come from lump sums invested with the Society, mostly invested in ISA products – the Lump Sum ISA, the Monthly Savings ISA, and now in the Lifetime ISA. He illustrated how the business had grown in a slide presentation which showed that the Society was already ahead of its 2017 target.

He went on to explain that members' return reflect the return that the Society achieves on its assets. He pointed out that 2016 was an exceptional year and the fall in sterling following the vote to leave the EU was a major contributory factor. He warned members to expect further volatility in the currency during the ongoing Brexit negotiations.

Mr Bell stated that the Society had transferred £1 million to the assets directly backing with-profits contracts at the end of 2016.

He was also pleased to report that on the strength of good investment returns the Society's assets had grown beyond the end of 2016 figure quoted by the Chair and now stood at over £150 million. Absent any wobble in the markets, he expected to finish 2017 well ahead of the projection for the year.

Mr Bell informed the AGM that the Lifetime ISA launched in April had already generated interest from all over the UK but of course was only open to members of the police family.

He went on to inform the meeting that the Society intended to relaunch the Income Protection plan in the autumn, and referring to last year's AGM presentation on the 7 Families Campaign, reminded members of the importance of having proper financial provision should the worst happen. At the relaunch a confidential telephone support service given by dedicated professional nurses would be added to the cover for both existing Income Protection members and new joiners.

5. Questions

There were a number of questions from members including one who asked where the new members were coming from and whether these were new recruits or existing members of the service. Ben Grainger was able to explain they were coming from both groups with a good proportion coming from new recruits who were seen during marketing events taking place at Hendon.

Another member asked given the success of the Society, what steps the Board were taking to ensure the Society kept its links to the Met Police as he felt it was likely to attract the attention of other societies who may be keen to take it over. Mike McAndrew responded by saying that the Board currently had no appetite to enter into merger discussion with any other organisation. He stated that the whole time the Society was doing well and growing, he could not see this situation changing.

6. Votes

Mr McAndrew took members through the voting system and informed the meeting that the AGM votes cast at the meeting would be by way of the hand held device issued to members only, on arrival. There was no objection raised to this proposal. Any votes cast in the room would be added to the proxy votes already received with the result shown live on the projection screen.

All motions were proposed by the Board.

AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting held on 12 May 2016 which had been published in draft form on the website were tabled as a true and accurate record of that meeting. There were 936 votes in favour of the motion; 1 vote against; and 13 withheld. The Chair declared the motion was carried.

Annual Report & Accounts 2016

The Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 were tabled. There were 939 votes in favour of the motion; 2 votes against; and 9 votes withheld. The Chair declared the motion was carried.

Remuneration Policy

The Remuneration Policy as published within the Annual Report at page 21 was tabled. There were 921 votes in favour; 10 votes against; and 19 votes withheld. The Chair declared the motion was carried.

Remuneration Report (Advisory Vote)

The Remuneration Report as published within the Annual Report at page 21 was tabled. There were 921 votes in favour; 7 votes against; and 22 votes against. The Chair noted the result.

Re-Election of Directors

The Chair announced that under the provisions of Rule 26 the following Directors were deemed to have been elected, there having been no contest:

Stuart Henry BELL	Timothy John BIRSE	Janet Frances CASSETTARI
Fiona Estelle GREGORY	Michael John McANDREW	Graeme Stewart McAUSLAND
Lee Darren SCHÖPP	Joanna Mary Alison YOUNG	

Auditors

The proposal to reappoint Mazars LLP as the Auditors and to allow the Board to fix their remuneration was tabled. There were 923 votes in favour; 14 votes against; and 13 votes withheld. The Chair declared the motion to be carried.

7. Any Other Business

The Chair announced that the Board had determined to make a charity donation to the National Police Memorial Day of £1 for every proxy vote cast online. The number of people voting in this way was 595. However the Board had decided to enhance the donation by gifting AGM attendees a National Police Memorial lapel badge and making the donation up to £650.

The Chair also drew the name of the prize winner who was chosen from a list of everyone who voted at the AGM (proxy and in person).

There being no other business the Chair thanked the Union Jack Club for their assistance in organising the event.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm

	Chair
	Chief Executive
	Date

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