Coffee & Computers AGM 2020

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of Coffee & Computers (C&C) was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Jacksons Lane Community Arts Centre, 269A Archway Road, London N6 5AA, UK

The meeting commenced at 11.00am.

Members present were:
Milva Baldwin, Martin Bostock, Derry Daly, Margaret Fowler, Richard Grant, Sherryl Hendrickson, Edgar Jacobsberg, Andy Jeffrey, David Jeffrey, Donal Kellehzr, Mike Klein, Michael Lyons, Cyril Meadows, Sally Mustoe, Bozenna Ochocki, Eric Snape, Eric Wilton, John Wise
Radhika Jani (representing Jacksons Lane) also attended as a non-member.

Call for new members
The chair, Eric Wilton, welcomed members and invited anyone attending, who was not a member, to become a member without any monetary or legal obligations involved.

Chairman's Report
Eric Wilton provided a brief history of how Coffee & Computers had grown and developed since its inception in 2015 and how the successful current session format had evolved. He acknowledged the debt of gratitude to the original founders at the Highgate Society and outlines Coffee & Computers in 2019 had since become community of communities, meeting at least 12 times a month in 8 locations.
During 2019 Coffee & Computers had added two new locations, at St Mary's in Islington and Alexandra Palace.
During 2019 Coffee & Computers had enjoyed 366 attendances by learners and 355 attendances by volunteers, figures that demonstrated how closely Coffee & Computers was to achieving its desired 1:1 match between learners and volunteers.
Each week a mail-out about Coffee & Computers forthcoming sessions is sent to 240 Learners, 71 volunteers and 28 people serving as group leaders or representatives of host organizations.

During the year Coffee & Computers had run three well-attended special sessions focused on computer security. Coffee & Computers were exploring

the possibility of more special single topic sessions and suggestions on content and structure would be welcome.

In conclusion Eric Wilton commented it had been a good year for Coffee & Computers, but it was vital to stay open to new ideas on how to operate and serve the community.

Eric Wilton explained how the trustees worked and that David Jeffrey had kindly agreed to be co-opted during 2019. Eric Wilton encouraged more members, to become trustees.

He thanked the trustees, group leaders and host organization co-ordinators for their work during the year.

Sally Mustoe requested an update regarding the renovation of Hornsey Library and the lift closure that created difficulties for disabled members since early December in accessing the upper floor café area where Coffee & Computers meets. This had resulted in three sessions where disabled attendees were severely inconvenienced and/or could not access the meetings.

Eric Wilton agreed and said he would write to Sara Khan, Head Librarian, concerning the matter and seek an update to distribute to members.

Fund-raising: Eric Wilton explained that the annual fund raising had been very successful and thanked all those who had contributed.

He emphasized that no one was under any obligation to contribute and that Coffee & Computers sessions would always be free to participants. Fund-raising helped finance Mifi, communications costs such as laminating equipment and refreshments and that no one involved in Coffee & Computers received any payment.

He proposed that Coffee & Computers maintain its annual crowd funding appeal. A motion in support of continuing the annual appeal was passed then unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Klein delivered the Treasurer's report accompanied by a series of summary spreadsheets distributed as print-outs to members present. (The budget sheet is available here. The monthly summary for 2019 is available here as well as the figures rendered in chart form here.)

In terms of income, at the halfway stage Coffee & Computers had raised £714, compared to £640 for the whole of the previous year. Of this £170

had come from Learners and Mike Klein said it would be reasonable to interpret this as a validation of the service Coffee & Computers provided. Expenditure was £612 with a fully itemised breakdown.

At end 2019, Coffee & Computers had £820 in the bank and were about £69 underspent on the 2019 budget as the proposed 2nd MiFi had not, after all, been purchased.

Going into 2020 Mike Klein forecast that there will be £1,300 available to spend in the new financial year.

Milva Baldwin raised the issue that some learners did not know how to donate online. She and others would be interested to learn. MK offered to follow up at Milva's next session.

Eric Wilton asked for ideas on how the budget could be wisely spent. Martin Bostock suggested apportioning some of the budget for test marketing appropriate to reach more learners, who did not yet use digital technology via their friends and family, who may well do so.

Sally Mustoe suggested evening sessions for people in work, but struggling with IT in their job. Eric Wilton suggested that Coffee & Computers was dependent on being invited by host organisations to fill time slots and that evenings might be harder to arrange.

Mike Klein noted that provision of tea and biscuits at some venues could be improved with further expenditure.

Election of Trustees
The existing trustees, Eric Wilton, Mike Klein and Richard Grant agreed to be nominated to serve for a further year. David Jeffrey who was co-opted as an acting trustee during the year also agreed to be nominated.

Neil Swan and Andy Jeffrey also volunteered to be nominated.

The names of all seven nominees were then formally nominated from the floor by Sally Mustoe and seconded by Bozenna Ochocki.

All six nominees were elected unanimously.

John Wise offered himself provided he might make a final decision after observing for a while. EW welcomed John's offer and confirmed he could be co-opted as and when he wanted to go ahead subject to confirmation at the 2020 AGM.

Sally Mustoe proposed a vote of thanks to Eric Wilton. It was passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 12.20.