



PROBUS CLUB OF SALISBURY ORIGINS

On **Friday 27 May 1983**, a group of Rotarians met and it was unanimously agreed that a Probus Club be formed in Salisbury. It is thought the reasoning behind this was that the Rotary Club of Salisbury planned to admit ladies as members and this did not have the approval of all the members. This may not be correct. A Steering Committee was appointed to discuss the formation of the Club under the chairmanship of Rotarian Chris Griffith, the President of the Rotary Club of Salisbury, L. Parratt, and P. Sims, Rotarian, with Ken Copping, Acting Secretary (who was also secretary of Salisbury Rotary). If the Club was formed, there were 23 prospective members and these were:

Jim Andrews

W.C.C. Backinsell

Stanley Beard (President in 1983)

Geoff Brown

Ken Copping (President in 1984)

Douglas Cox (President in 1987)

Frank Crocker

Harold Crossland

Alfred Dowsett (President in 1985 and still a member)

Bill Goddard

Alan Green (President in 1988)

G. Maclaren Humphreys

Ernest Lawrence

Cyril Moss

John Raine

Carl Richards

Richard Roberts

Eric Sanger

H.S. Taylor Young

Cecil Thorogood

Bert Whattam

Rowland Winterton

John Wright

The guest speaker was C. Longhurst President of the Probus Club of Shaftesbury and his subject was the foundation and development of the Probus Club of Shaftesbury. He emphasised that the reason for a Probus Club is fellowship with fun, no charitable works are undertaken, it is non-political and non-sectarian. Morning meetings take place with a speaker, an annual lunch is organised and outside events take place at which ladies are invited. It was proposed by Mr Brown and seconded by Mr Raine that a Probus Club be formed in Salisbury which was approved. Friday was the most suitable day with a 10.30am start. A Steering Committee comprising Messrs Beard, Brown, Copping, Crossland and Raine was set up to produce a set of rules and any other business relevant to the formation of the Club to be presented at a meeting of members on 17 June 1983, with Mr Copping becoming acting secretary.

The Steering Committee met on **3 June 1983** at the home of Ken Copping, Jesmond, Portland Avenue, Salisbury who acted as Chairman and after a study of the rules of the Probus Clubs of Shaftesbury and Thornton-Cleveleys, the following draft rules were produced:

1. The Club shall be named the Probus Club of Salisbury.
2. Membership shall be open to those who have fully or partly retired from their normal profession or business. An application for membership shall be made in writing by an existing member and the committee can limit the number of members.

3. The management of the Club shall be in the hands of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Immediate Past President and two ordinary committee members. The Secretary may not serve for more than three consecutive years and no ordinary committee member can serve as such for more than two consecutive years. A quorum shall be three members of the committee and sub committees can be formed.
4. The Club will meet on the first and third Friday of each month at 10.30am at a suitable venue. The AGM shall be held on the second meeting in July and the accounts to the end of June (subsequently changed to 31 March) shall be presented after audit by a member of the Club appointed at the previous AGM.
5. Subscription shall be determined at the AGM and be payable within one month.
6. Apologies for absence and notice of guests shall be passed to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Other matters discussed at this Meeting included Nomination Forms for Committee Members, Name Badges, Ties, Regalia, the printing of the Rules and a Directory and the first year's subscription of £5.

On **17 June 1983** at a preliminary meeting of prospective members held at the Old House Restaurant, New Street, Salisbury, the proposed rules were approved and nominations for office were requested to be submitted at the next meeting on 1 July 1983.

At the Meeting on **1 July 1983**, nominations were received for office as follows:

President: S. Beard and H. Crossland.

Vice President: S Beard, G. Brown, H. Crossland, J. Raine and C.Thorogood.

Secretary: K. Copping.

Treasurer: A. Dowsett.

Auditor: W. Goddard.

Programme Secretary: None.

Committee Members: G. Brown, G. Chamberlain, D. Cox, H. Crossland,

G. Maclaren Humphreys, J. Raine, G. Robertson, C. Thorogood, and H. Whattam.

At this Meeting Harold Eyres, a member delivered a talk on 'Letter from Grampa'.

The proposed rules to be approved and office bearers to be appointed at the first AGM on 22 July 1983.

The first AGM was held at the Old House Restaurant in Salisbury on **Friday 22 July 1983**. The President of the Rotary Club of Salisbury, Pat Mullins, acted as Chairman and twenty three members were present with apologies from Harold Taylor-Young, Bert Whattam and John Wright. The proposed rules were unanimously adopted and the annual subscription of £5 approved. The following officers were elected:

President: Stanley Beard (by ballot). The President was installed and took over the chair.

Vice President: Harold Crossland (by ballot).

Secretary: Ken Copping

Treasurer: Alf Dowsett.

Auditor: Bill Goddard.

Programme Secretary: Peter Johnson.

Ordinary Committee Members: Gordon Chamberlain and Doug Cox (by ballot).

Other items discussed included regalia and badges, a list of speakers and outside events. Ken Copping spoke on 'The Days when a Grocer was a Grocer'.

The next regular meeting of Members was to be on 5 August 1983 in the Hawkings Room at the Playhouse Theatre, Salisbury by courtesy of the manager, Alan Corkhill, a Rotarian.



Pat Mullins presenting Stanley Beard with his Badge of Office which was donated by Rotary.

As a result of the waiting list to join the Club becoming lengthy, on 27 September 1985, under the auspices of the Probus Club of Salisbury, the Probus Club of Sarum was inaugurated and held its first meeting on 11 October 1985 with a membership of some thirty in attendance. In addition, in July 1996 the Probus Club of Salisbury and the Probus Club of Sarum, provided a donation to assist in the establishment of the Salisbury Ladies Probus Club.