

## Chairman's Report

An eventful 14 months since our last AGM held at the Mercure Hotel, Wetherby on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

Much work had been done prior to that meeting relating to the upcoming 2015 PAM; this continued apace to result in another highly successful Old Thorns PAM, that we felt now firmly established OT as the future PAM location.

Several issues arose that underlined that again underlined some of the concerns of the 2014 PAM and that required serious rethinking concerning the future structure of the PAM. Peter was again, very concerned with several aspects and was querying whether PAM had run its course and that now was the time to stop. My response was that the change from Elie was bound to create problems that affected the ethos of the PAM and that there was still a huge amount of support, enthusiasm, and interest in what the PAM stood for but we should discuss fully at the "wash up". The wash up meeting did not happen due to date clashes that prevented Peter from attending. It resulted in multitudinous emails and phone calls that ultimately led to a meeting being called on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Belfry as there were clearly serious issues to be addressed. Unfortunately only Peter, Jackie, Ray F, JS, JR, PD and Jeff could attend. I say unfortunately as there were several important issues that were to be raised and a fuller attendance would have made the outcome of some decisions less stressful and upsetting.

As stated, Peter was unhappy on several fronts, one being the number of people involved and felt that "streamlining" was required along with an added input from those physically closer to OT and that this could only be achieved by reducing the present committee to accommodate this representation.

The consequence of this was to propose the creation of the role of Secretary and that Jackie Alliss would be proposed and be supported by Henry Alliss, Jack Buchanan and John Davies or indeed any other person she felt would be of value in relation to the OT side of representation via a small sub group. The great problem however was the question of committee members' reduction. Danny Rowe had already indicated his decision to resign from the committee. Peter proposed that JF be asked to fill the newly proposed position of Hon. President which would relieve him of his Committee and Trustee duties which would then be filled by JA when officially in post. There was very strong support for the proposal that Eric Malkin be co-opted as a member of the committee due to his outstanding past performances in obtaining, organising and supplying the wheelchairs at our major presentations including the PAM, the essential part of our whole crusade. Therefore, with great reluctance it was decided to ask KT and GA to relinquish their co-option on the committee. It was not an easy thing to do, especially as all three, KT, DR and GA had all given immense help and support to the PAM both at committee and PAM level and a huge thank you is due to them. The good thing is that they have all agreed to be asked to step in again if required and we are grateful for their continued support of the PAM. The label PAMGS was discussed and it was agreed that it conveyed the wrong message by have the GS part. It was proposed that we call ourselves simply the PAM and that will be voted on shortly.

A PAM tie was proposed and after following Peter's thoughts on the matter, I designed a tie and after some tweaking Ray and his friendly "tie man" have produced one which is now on sale.

Further there was discussion on the important need to change the Constitution and Bye-laws to accommodate the effects of the changes that have occurred over the last 2 years – this

was deemed too detailed to be covered at the Belfry meeting and was left on the table for the Spring Meeting.

Peter felt that a Spring Meeting was unnecessary so it was not prioritised, aided and abetted by difficulty in getting together for various personal reasons. However, we met on 19<sup>th</sup> July and agreed on the changes to the Constitution and Bye Laws that had been reviewed by RF. This was a mammoth task and he is due the committee's great thanks for all the hard graft that was needed to complete the two tasks. They have been on the website and will be voted on shortly. RF as Treasurer has produced another 24 carat job, PD has done his usual high quality job revamping and freshening up our website and I hope you all are as impressed with its "new look" as I am. A huge thank you is due to him for his ongoing, invaluable contribution to our Crusade.

Eric Malkin has agreed to join us and again he has come up trumps with the organisation of the 7 children and youngsters being presented tomorrow, the 8<sup>th</sup> chair being presented by Ferndown.

It is always a great comfort to have JS on committee, his ability to see through to the core of the matter and to comment accordingly is of inestimable value to us especially when accompanied by his renowned dry wit. It is little wonder PA values highly his presence on the committee.

It has, in many ways, been a difficult year and I am confident that we can effectively continue polishing an already pretty good looking vehicle in the form of the OT PAM to drive into the future.