**The London Fire Brigade Welfare Fund – Eastern Area AGM**

**Monday 17th March 2025 @ 10:40 hrs**

**Held at The Walnut Tree, Leytonstone.**

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| **Present** | Apologies |
| Ash Perham –Area Treasurer - Retired (AP) | Paul Maher - Area Secretary - Retired |
| Graham Moreland - Retired Members Rep | Jacquie Easton – Welfare Fund CEO  |
| Nelson Burton – Bethnal Green (NB) | Andy Richards – F25 Shadwell  |
| Jo Sarsfield – F41 Chingford | Zoe Southam – E35 Enfield |
| Gavin Negus – F43 Barking (GN) | Christian Toumazou - A35 Enfield  |
| Chris Cox – Whitechapel (CC) | Paul Muldoon – King – F37 |
| John Buttigieg - Southgate | Bob Coombe – Retired  |
| Jo Berry – A31 | Chris Pond – Retired - E Command Golf  |
| Paul Skorzewski - Retired – Bandits Golf (PS) | Richard Henderson – Dowgate  |
| Darren Draper – F57 Harold Hill (DD) | Cindy Searle – F22  |
| Robert Lewis – Retired (RL) | Steve Bradley – F29 Leyton |
| James Wingfield – Barking Training (JW) | Ronin McGregor F38 Romford |
| Ken Clarke – Retired (KC) | Adam O’Connor – Bethnal Green  |
| Patrick Littleton - Retired | Damian Kilcoin – F41 Dagenham |
| Brendan Phillips – F32 Stoke Newington (BP) | Ben Bradley – A32 Hornsey |
| Jack Bresslaw – F42 Ilford (JB) | Billie Isted Jones – F35 Woodford |
| Jason Remyn – A33 Tottenham (JR) |  |
| Paul Farrell – Millwall (PF) |  |
| Joe Downs – Hornchurch (JD) |  |
| Russ Ferris – Woodford F35 (RF) |  |
| Peter Amies – Retired (PA) |  |
| Paul Oshin – Homerton (PO) |  |
| Julie Cooper – Welfare Fund Central Office (JC) |  |

1. **Apologies for absence**

See above

1. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting (18th March 2024)**

Ash Perham **(AP)** introduced the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Previous minutes were approved as a correct record, with Ken Clarke proposing and Paul Farrell seconding them.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

**See Treasurer’s Report**

4. **Treasurer’s Report**

**AP** said that the Area was in a good state financially. All the money from years ago had now been taken, along with the usual annual grant.

He said that he wouldn’t be buying ice baths as there were maintenance and health and safety issues, even though the LFB said it would be ok; Pickle Ball would be ok. He would order any equipment from Amazon and send it directly to a person’s home.

Question from the floor: **Joe Downes** **(JD)** said the equipment that had been ordered wasn’t the best quality and doesn’t last long. **AP** said he always orders good quality equipment and not the cheapest option.

Question from the floor: **James Wingfield** **(JW)** asked if they could order a microwave for their kitchen at Barking Training and **AP** said to try to order through POMS.

5. **Election of Officers**

**Ash Perham** (Treasurer) said that he would be willing to stand again next year, along with **Paul** **Mahe**r (Secretary) and **Graham Morland** (Retired Members Secretary). Everyone was asked if anyone wanted any of the positions up for election; no one present volunteered. Paul Skorzewski proposed the above and Ken Clarke seconded the proposal.

All officers were subsequently voted in unanimously.

6. **Membership**

**AP** said that this was still an issue, and there were always people who weren’t members when checks were done. Names can be checked by sending a list of names to the Office, but it is the responsibility of the Station Rep to check if people are members.

7. **Budgets**

Last year, **AP** said the Golf Sections had £11,000.00. **PS** said working on the premise of a subsidy of £50.00 or 50% per person maximum, they would have been eligible for a grant of £15,152 last year, an increase on the £14,463 from the year before. There had also been 483 people attending golf events.

There then followed a discussion regarding the budget for Golf. PS said he would not ask for an increase if it meant taking money that the Area didn’t have, meaning people on stations weren’t getting what they wanted.

Bandits to receive £12,000.00.

Eastern Command Golf to receive £12,000.00.

This was agreed unanimously.

Question from the floor**: Paul Farrell (PF)** asked **h**ow to join the Golf Section. PS said it is open to all and you just have to come as a guest 3 times. Numbers are limited on golf days to 36.

Question from the floor: Would it be possible to put up Welfare Fund subs and the amount people are given for events. **AP** said it wasn’t that easy but he would bring it up at the next Executive meeting.

Question from the floor: **Russ Ferris (RF)** asked if the garden budget can be increased. **AP** said there is no garden or station budget as such. If money is wanted to set up a garden, we can give money towards that and also the upkeep of the garden.

This led to a discussion regarding the LFB paying towards gardens and gym equipment.

It was proposed to pay up to a maximum of £500.00 to start a garden (as a one off) and then up to £250.00 to maintain it afterwards.

This was agreed unanimously.

8. **Spanish Property**

**AP** said that a link has been sent on how to book the refurbished apartment and we need people to use it.

**JC** explained the process on how to book it.

Question from the floor: **Darren Draper** said that he found that other properties on the site were cheaper than the apartment. **AP** said that lots of them did not include the community fees and bills.

9. **Reimbursement of Trips / Retirement**

**AP** said you will get a maximum of £50.00 or 50% per person. All that is needed for the money is a short write up and some photos for the Welfare Fund Magazine, but photos must include members of the trip. He would also need receipts and names and pay numbers. These could be emailed to him.

10. **Equipment**

**AP** said that every station is a different size and there is a set criterion from Property for what equipment each station can have.

Question from the floor: **JD** asked if Reps could see a list of equipment each station can have. **AP** said there is no list and it is up to the LFB what they let each station have, and this hasn’t changed.

There then followed a discussion regarding the quality of equipment being bought and AP said it was all of good quality. **AP** said it was easier if equipment was bought through him.

11. **AOB**

**Tunnel to Towers 2025 - JC** said that the trip would be going ahead this year with 23 booked so far. It will depart Friday 26th September and return Tuesday 30th September. Members price is £630.00 and non-members £730.00.

**Blue Light Card - JC** said there had been a problem with Blue Light Card codes but things had now been sorted out. If anyone needs a card/code, they can email or call the Office, who will give them a code for a free card.

**Reps list & Newsletter - JC** said that she now had an up-to-date list of Reps and if anyone knows of any changes, could they please let the Office know. Also, a Reps Newsletter would be sent out once a month and a WhatsApp group had been set up for all Reps.

**Magazine articles – JC** asked that when people send articles & photos in for the Magazine, could they please be mindful of their content. Recently, some articles & photos had been sent in that were not suitable for publication. If this happens, the Office will edit articles before they are included.

The meeting closed at 12:00