

**THE MRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 26th MAY**

The arrangements for the MRA Annual General Meeting have been changed – please note this is now scheduled for the 26th May starting at 10:30am, and will now be held at the Onchan Pensioners Social Hall which is just off the Main Road in Onchan and close to Onchan Library. Unusually, refreshments will be served at the end of the AGM rather than prior to it.

The AGM gives you the opportunity to raise with the Committee any questions or queries you may have, and to provide feedback on our activities. In particular, the committee will be outlining the issues facing the Association, including a significant drop in membership (down more than 20% over the past year or so) with a resultant drop in income, whilst costs have increased (particularly with postage for the Islander magazine). The committee will therefore wish to discuss with members possible actions to address these concerns – including a membership drive, suggestions on possible cost reductions as well as revenue increases - and to gain a consensus amongst the membership as to how to progress in the future.

It is important that as many members as possible should be in attendance to make their views known. We would love to see you there. The Committee

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**MARCH LUNCH AT THE OCEAN VIEWS, ONCHAN**

Seventy four members of the MRA met at the Ocean Views restaurant on Friday 17 March where a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. There was a nod to St Patrick with an emerald green cheesecake amongst the dessert choices, some staff wearing emerald green leprechaun hat head boppers and Jim Cottier showing his mischievous side wearing his rather large “cocked hat”.

The post-meal entertainment was provided by the fabulous Shenanigans Banned. Music, song and merriment followed whilst we sang and clapped to Irish and Manx songs. The musicians were Martyn on the squeeze box, Alan on guitar and Eric on the mandolin and penny whistle....with a special mention to Graham on the coconuts, who provided the clippity clop horsey sound effects. The afternoon rounded off with the 200 Club draw and the raffle. Over £200 was raised through the sale of the raffle tickets and the lucky winners all took home some delightful prizes. Thanks to the team that made the lunch event such a memorable occasion.

“May you have all the happiness and luck that life can hold – and at the end of your rainbow may you find a pot of gold” - an Irish Blessing John Evans

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**200 CLUB WINNERS – MARCH 2023**



The draw for the March 200 Club was as follows, the winners being :

Eunice Langton (30)                      Steve Quarrie (192)  
Pauline Duggua (93)

Each wins £25, and cheques have been posted to them..

Remember you have to be in it to win it!

If would like to take up a number, please contact me via mobile 413767, or via email at [frankja@manx.net](mailto:frankja@manx.net) or via the MRA office. New members are always welcome.

Alan Franklin

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**NEW MEMBER**

Latest new member to join the Association is as follows :

Naomi Brooks (South)

Please give her a very warm welcome!

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**MRA FAIRWEATHER WALKERS : MAY 2023**

**8<sup>th</sup> May** : A social stroll around the Mooragh Park is on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm when there is the choice of one or two laps of the lake. We'll meet in the car park near the Park Hotel.

**15<sup>th</sup> May** : We shall be visiting Ballaglass Glen on the 15<sup>th</sup> May starting at 1:30pm, when hopefully there will be lots of bluebells to enjoy. We'll meet in the car park and as it may be rough underfoot, suitable footwear will be needed.

Please car share where possible and bring all your own essentials.

Any queries please contact: Sally Farrell on 622632 / 346239.

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**"ANNIE GET YOUR GUN"**

From the moment Daniel-Sebastian Gray aka Frank Butler began singing "there's no business. like show business" I knew I would enjoy the show. The production kept to the original script and the well-loved songs and that for me was part of it's charm. The principal players gave very good performances and the singing contest - I can do anything better than you was great, with Karen Cowley as Annie Oakley hitting some amazing high notes. The chorus and the orchestra blended well and enhanced the atmosphere and the 4 young Oakley siblings made everyone smile. I really enjoyed the character Dolly who reminded me of Bette Midler which made me laugh as I am a fan of hers.

The Annie Oakley and Frank Butler love story went down well with the audience many of whom were miming to the songs. There was a real feeling of enjoyment in the theatre, which is a lovely place to visit whatever is on. The cast seemed to thoroughly enjoy taking part in the show and their enthusiasm and joy made up for any mistakes and some prop mishaps but those things merely added to a very good afternoon's entertainment.

I think that MRA members enjoyed their trip to the Gaiety and I want to thank Barbara for arranging another excellent outing which for me had the "feel good factor" and it's always good to meet up with friends.

Joyce Quine

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**INDOOR BOWLING REPORT FOR THE SEASON OCTOBER 2022 – APRIL 2023**

The season went well with an average turnout of 18 members for each of 24 sessions. The group has paid for itself as always, both for NSC charges and our prize fund, together with a modest contribution to MRA funds. .

The well attended end of season lunch and prize giving was held at the Douglas Golf Club where the ladies first prize was well won by Jean Taylor with an average of 11.315 points, taking home the Trophy and a £20 voucher from M&S. In second place was Margaret Hardill, also a previous winner and who thoroughly deserved the £15 voucher with an average of 10.900 points.

Now to the men who, overall, did well this season, the top 3 separated by less than a point. John Levitt came top of the leader board, averaging 11.300 per session, winning the Trophy plus a £20 M& S voucher. He is one of the stalwarts of our group and rarely missed a session. Second ,with 10.750 per session was David Farrell, another long time member of the group, whilst third place was taken by Jim Cottier with 10.330.

The new season will start again on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and details will be in the "Islander" in August as well as the application form. Sadly, I will not be leading the group then, for a number of reasons but in particular due to back problems. I hand over to Neil Corlett and hope he enjoys controlling the "herd" as much as I did.

My thanks to Barbara Mason for organising the prize giving lunch. Enjoy your bowling !!

Peter Maillard

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