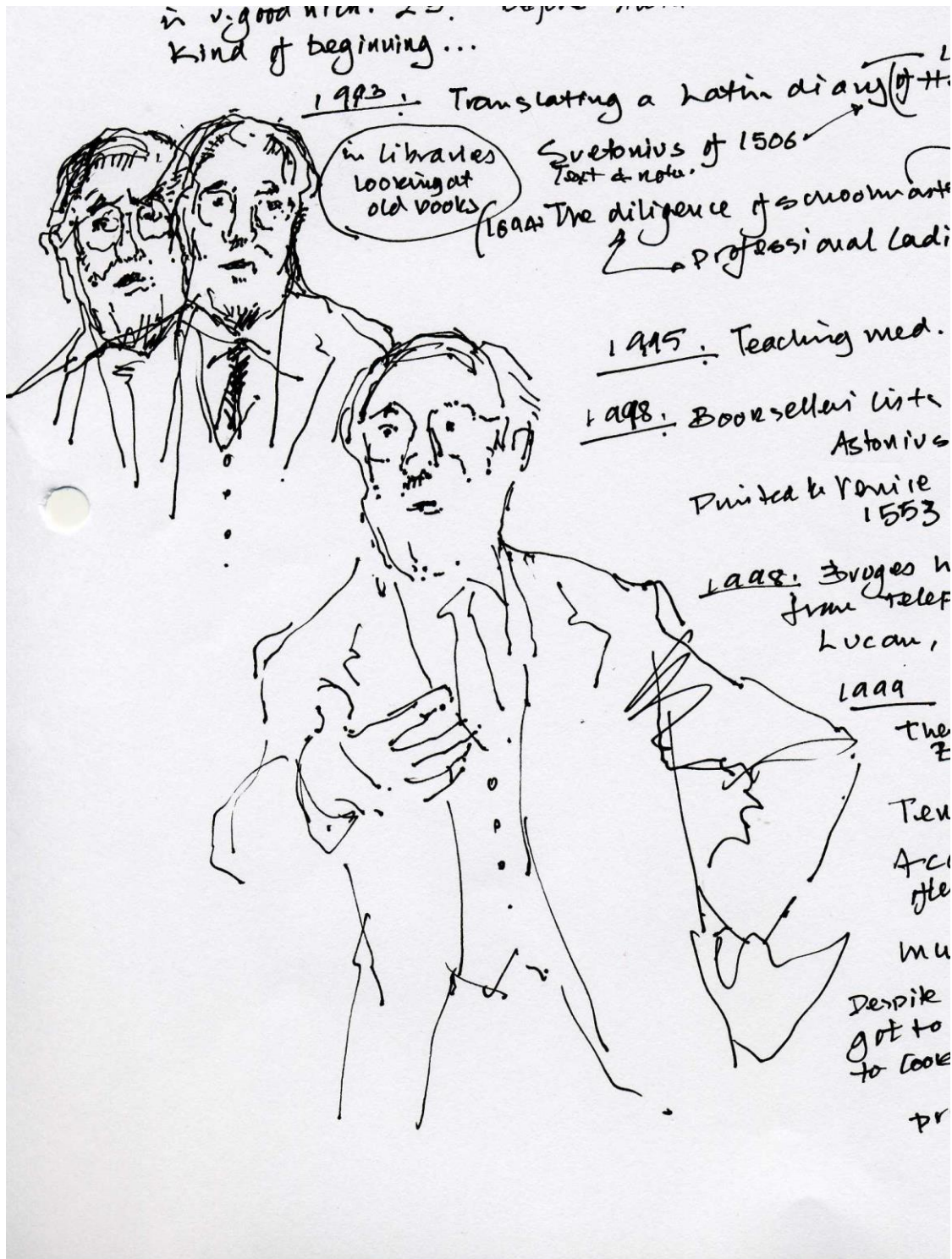


The history of Settle and District Men's Forum (1975 to 2024)



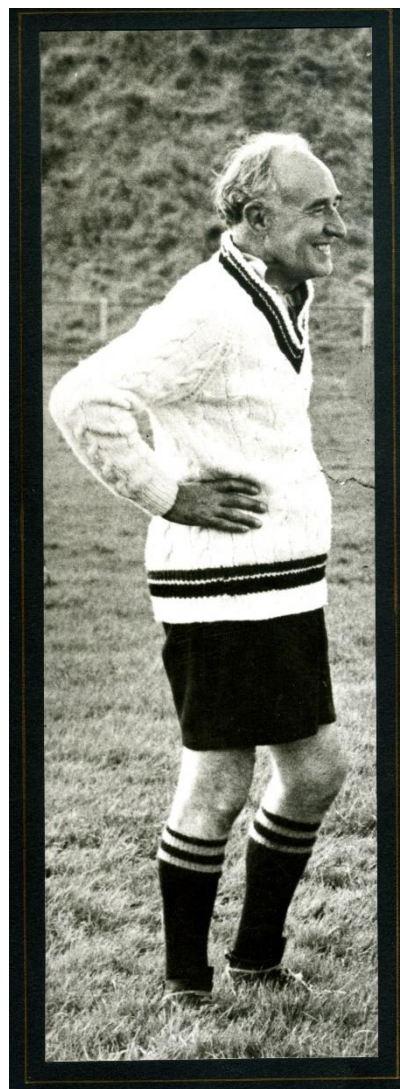
The early days

In 1970, Rotary Clubs in the UK were promoting the concept of Clubs for retired men. Probably in 1974, Major General T. H. Birkbeck and Mr L. P. Dutton (known to friends as Dut) noticing the success of various women's organizations in the area, proposed the setting up of a Men's Forum in Settle. Mr T. Wood was also held largely responsible for starting the Forum. A meeting was held with several attendees in an upper room at the Old Court House in Settle where the Local History group met.

Theodore Henry Birkbeck CB, CBE, DSO (1911–1976) was a British Army officer. He was of the well-established Birkbeck family of Settle, retiring to Anley in 1966. He was elected first President of the Forum. He was known to friends as John and to his family as Teddy (his American mother was a fan of Roosevelt).



Teddy (aka John) Birkbeck



*Leonard Dutton,
courtesy Giggleswick School*

©

*NPG x181202; Theodore Henry Birkbeck - Portrait - National Portrait Gallery
with permission for journals and websites free of charge*

Leonard Parker Dutton (1907-1997) was a housemaster at Giggleswick School. He was a classicist by training and the legendary master in charge of rugby. He became Deputy Head and the school's 6th form centre is now named after him. Addressing him as Mr Dutton rather than Leonard was thought proper by at least one current Forum member.

A first provisional meeting of the Settle and District Men's Forum was held on 13th January 1975 when 17 men attended at the Education Office on Castle Hill.



Old Court House



*Education Office
(later Registry Office and now two apartments)*

The group title was agreed and membership was restricted to retired or semi-retired men at the discretion of an Executive Committee. Meetings were to be fortnightly. New members proposed by existing members had to be 'vetted' by the Executive Committee to avoid any embarrassment on refusal, whether on grounds of numbers exceeding 40 or otherwise. Numbers were restricted to a maximum of 40 because of limitations on expected size of accommodation and were close to that number from 1975 to 2005 but thereafter there were about 30 members until the Covid outbreak in 2020 when numbers fell further. The first Chairman was Mr Dutton, Hon. Secretary J. F. S. Jones, Hon. Treasurer R. C. Clayton and Committee members D. Cameron and T. Wood. Meetings were to be non-sectarian and non-party political. Numbers of attendees increased throughout the first year (from 12 to 25) and by the end of 1976 there were between 20 and 30 attendees at fortnightly meetings. About 28 names are recorded as regular participants. Unfortunately Major General Birkbeck attended only occasionally because of ill health and he died in 1976.

The Executive Committee met at the Royal Oak in Settle on 19th November 1975. It was proposed that there be a Vice-Chairman.

Meetings moved from the Education Office to the Town Hall Council chamber in July 1975 (£1 hire cost per meeting). The lack of blinds, tea facilities and heating had proved to be disadvantages at the Education Office.

The first AGM was held on 12th January 1976 with 25 members present at the Wenhaven Cafe (which was at Whitefriars, previously a confectioner's and baker's premises, with a cafe

upstairs) with lunch at 75p per head. A formal process was adopted for operating the Forum. The Forum was affiliated to the Craven Institute of Further Education for a couple of years (£2-25 per meeting) with a room available for meetings and opportunity to share 'outside' speakers.

From February 1976 meetings were held at the Ashfield Settle Social Club for which a joining membership fee was required – 50p if under 65, 12½ p for OAPs. In 1983 one new member under the age of 65 declined to pay the increased fee of £1 to join the Club and was expelled from the Forum.



Settle Social Club, Ashfield

At the AGM in January 1977 a short silence was held in memory of departed members, including Major General Birkbeck. This practice was continued in all later years for lost members. Mr L. P. Dutton became President, Revd G. Burgon Chairman, Mr H. Ackroyd Vice-Chairman, Mr J. Jones Secretary, Mr R. Clayton Treasurer, D. Cameron and H. Humphrey committee members.

In 1977 the Executive Committee contributed £10 to the cost of a defibrillator and a radio system for local doctors but they were accused later of exceeding their powers and it was decreed by ordinary members that this should not create a precedent. The Ambulance Service asked for a donation for a defibrillator in 1989 but this was left to members' discretion.

The 'Tea wallahs' were to commence duty at 2.30pm to prevent intrusion of clatter of cups and saucers at the start of meetings at 2.45. Membership gradually increased from 23 to 34 and the average attendance was recorded as 22½. In 1978 Mr Humphrey confessed to having forgotten that he was on tea duty, 'thereby creating much laughter'. A trip to Top Mill, Langcliffe, paperworks, was arranged in 1979.

A great debate was held in 1981 concerning the purchase of a kettle and ten tea mugs, finally concluded by February 1982 after a donation by a member to help with the cost of £7-04.

These first meetings set the tone thereafter with only the occasional problem of organization, but gradually formality lessened, to the extent of moderating the formal manner of address and dress - collars and ties disappeared in later years. The Rule book and Constitution

became less prescriptive and eventually much simplified so that an agreed process of conducting ourselves in a gentlemanly manner finally became the norm.

The attached Appendices detail many aspects of the Forum.

Excursions

The companies used were Ingfield Coaches of Settle, Bibby's of Ingleton and K and M.K. Hodson's of Gisburn, all requested for competitive quotes. When membership numbers fell somewhat, they were insufficient to justify further viable coach trips after about 2010.

'... members should make sure that they are on the coach when it leaves (Bowness) ...'

The coach was usually back in Settle by early evening – no stops at pubs on the return journey are noted in the Minutes. The places visited are listed in an Appendix.

Talks

An astonishing variety of subjects of talks was presented over 50 years. During 1976 the flavour of later meetings is shown by this variety. Some well-travelled members and invited speakers in early years talked about visits to many countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia and North and South America. The Antarctic featured in later years. When speakers were occasionally unable to attend, the idea of all contributing a short anecdote proved very acceptable. A local flavour frequently surfaced – in one case with the recommendation that 'If ya allus do reet, reet'll come to ya'. Global warming, the development of electric vehicles and the need for nuclear power were topics considered as early as 2001 – batteries were not at that time of adequate capacity for driving cars any long distance (and the costs of decommissioning nuclear plants were not at that time anticipated).

Specific members were in early years asked to provide a speaker for the next meeting, or give a talk themselves. It became gradually more difficult to sustain a programme of outside speakers and after about 1997 virtually all talks were given by members. In later years it was expected that members each gave a presentation about once a year according to a rota.

An Appendix lists many more topics discussed. Over 50 years there must have been more than one thousand talks delivered. Occasionally ladies were invited to speak, one or two per year – they were not banned from attendance! Early contributors were Miss Maggie Galloway of Malham Tarn Field Centre, Miss Carlton talking about safe use of electricity in the home and Miss Hart about gas safety. Miss Beth Graham spoke about European elections, Mrs Margaret Callan about flying high as a hostess, Miss E. Percy nursing, Mrs Andrews Moscow and Leningrad, Mrs Hunter about the Holy Land. Mrs Perou spoke about Nepal, Mrs Elsie Parker about the four seasons, Mrs P. Waterfall spoke on travel from A to Z, Mrs A. Bradley about Australia, Mrs Bargh about Greenland, Olwyn Bolger talked about her late husband and member Keith – vet and poet, Mrs Norma Finnerty about Four Corners, USA, Mrs Dorothy Hemsworth about Snow, Bazalgette and 'The Great Stink' and Sita Brand about 'Settle Stories'.

The accounts of talks in the Minutes only became more than brief comments after the mid-1990s and can be seen now to reflect so many aspects of life in the 1900s, with reflections on experiences of World War I and II, travel, farming, education, religion and countless other topics. But on occasion the Secretary commented that 'the talk appeared to be about ...' They

are a remarkable source of information for any social scientist to consider. A collection of summaries of many of the talks has been prepared.

Dinners and Lunches

It became the practice to have an annual dinner late in the year with wives, in Settle at the Golden Lion for many years, then the Royal Oak (where there was a 30th anniversary celebration dinner in 2005). Occasionally other venues were booked – the Falcon Manor, the Court Yard, the Hart’s Head and latterly Knight’s Table in Stainforth. Lunch was arranged for AGMs in January at various venues, in Settle, Feizor and Stainforth.

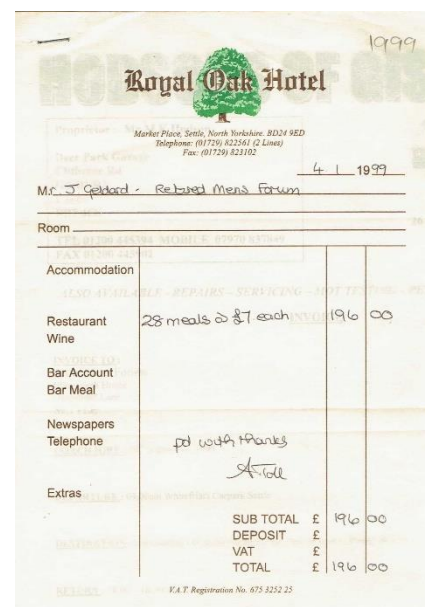
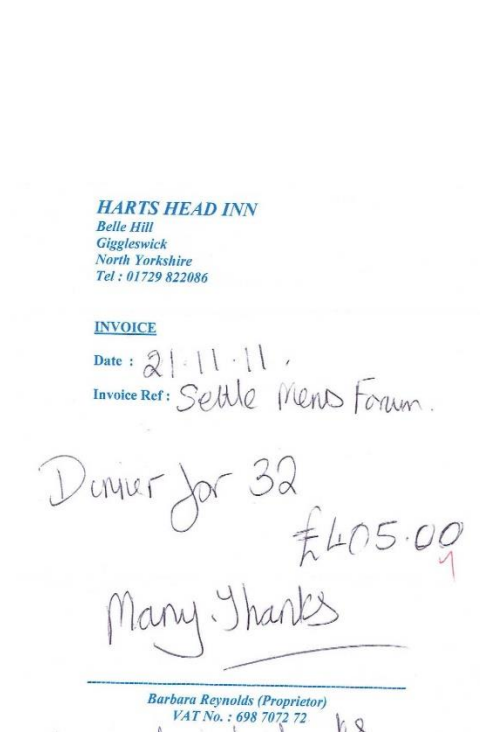


Golden Lion



Royal Oak

The cost of dinners increased over the years and were sometimes subsidized from annual subscriptions. The Appendix shows the available figures.



RATE: £200.00 Payable on the day please
 Booking made by Mr I Smith

All invoices are to be paid 7 days after the invoice date unless stated otherwise

Rules

From the beginning Rules were rather legalistic and were modified slightly over the first two years to account for circumstances of membership and operation of meetings. The 1975 rules were amended in 1978, 1985, 1993, 2005, 2011 and 2019.

Early on some dispute arose. Before prospective members were invited to join the Forum the Executive Committee had to be consulted, to reduce any risk that membership might be thought unacceptable. The President, Mr Dutton, revealed that after one Executive Committee meeting an altercation had taken place with Mr T. Wood about strict application of the rules, in particular about Chairmanship when the Forum Chairman was absent. The President had said 'Don't break the rules'. Interpretation of the spirit of the rules in a common sense fashion rather than strict adherence to the letter was at the bottom of the dispute. A secret vote of confidence in the President was held by members – a unanimous positive vote of confidence, but with Mr Wood abstaining. The two protagonists then shook hands, Mr Wood saying that he would continue to raise points of order if and when rules were broken. Two weeks later Mr Wood resigned.

Election to the post of Vice-Chairman also once caused a ruction through a misunderstanding since the paperwork was not in order according to the Rules and after the election a resignation ensued to sort out what was originally intended. All was done in a gentlemanly honourable amicable manner. Only one other serious falling-out between two members, followed by a request for one member to resign, happened in the following decades. In 2018 all committee members stood down after some unhappy turmoil concerning possible rule changes to be discussed in an Extraordinary General Meeting in June 2018. A suspension of meetings occurred between August and December 2018. In 2019 the group was reconstituted as the North Craven Men's Group with much simpler new rules and guidelines. The name was changed back to Settle and District Men's Forum shortly afterwards, then again to Settle Men's Forum.

In the absence of the Secretary on one occasion the Vice-Chairman proposed that there was 'wholehearted support for their Chairman in the face of such odds'.

One member took the opportunity in his talk in 1985 to express his views on the behaviour of the Executive Committee; this led to much discussion and changes to several rules. In 1993 rule changes included a smoking restriction in the meeting room.

By 2024 it could be said that Rules were of little concern and that commonsense and gentlemanly conduct were the principles regulating meetings.

Finances

Subscriptions were paid by members. In early years (1975-1981) a charge of 10p per meeting attended was made and raised to 20p in 1981. In later years an annual payment of £5 (1993), £7 (2000-2002), £8 (2003), £10 (2012), £15 (2017), rising to £16 was made (this latter included a variable subsidy for the annual dinner). The surplus money in the bank (TSB, then Skipton Building Society) was about £56 in 1989 rising to about £823 in 2012. In 1990 a legacy of £200 was received from Mr Nicholls, head of Settle Primary School, many charities also benefitting from his estate. This legacy was to pay for the next annual luncheon. A gradual run-down was then implemented by changing from an annual membership fee to payment of first £1 then £2 per meeting to cover immediate costs of refreshments and hire of premises and projection equipment, with only a small surplus held in reserve in cash by the Treasurer.

In the period 2010 to 2020 membership numbers fell with several suffering ill health and some dying. It was decided that any important decisions could be made by members instead

of an Executive Committee of several members, which could therefore be disbanded. Similarly, financial matters could be handled with less formality and simply based on trust to make the job easier. An annual constant surplus of around £100 was adequate for keeping the Forum solvent.

For meetings held at the Ashfield Settle Social Club after 1980 a membership fee for using the club was charged at £1pa per member, (25p for OAPs) which allowed parking in their car park. The fee increased to £2-50 pa for those under 65 and 30p for those older. The cost of using the room and tea bar was £15pa (£30 after about 2000) paid in a rather casual manner, as a donation, or as a 'token payment in appreciation for making facilities available'.

The Secretary was paid an Honorarium of £5 in 1977, £7 in 1981 and increased to £25 pa gradually (to defray postal and other increasing expenses). The practice was discontinued after about 2012. The expenditure of £1-32 for 'washing up' in December 1975 remains unexplained. In January 1976 the National Westminster Bank annual charge of £1-50 was questioned as being unnecessary and funds were transferred to the Trustee Savings Bank.

Annual Accounts were audited by various persons and specimen accounts are shown here. About 2020 when the organization was much simplified and when banking became much more security conscious and tedious to operate by the Treasurer, money was kept in hand by the Treasurer and annual accounts presented but not audited, being typically of the order of £100 at any time.

DATE	No (Dues)	Subs	1975 SPONSOR	PAID IN AID	TAX	OUTGOINGS
13.1.75	16	1.60		1.60	—	
27.1.75	23	3.20		2.75	.45	
10.2.75	16	1.60	Mr. Brewster	1.28	.52	
24.2.75	18	1.80	Mr. Nichols	1.46	.34	
10.3.75	18	1.80	Mr. Bradley, Banning	1.44	.36	
24.3.75	15	—	Mr. Shepherd	—	—	
7.4.75	20	2.00	Mr. Foster	.65	.40	95. Biscuits
21.4.75	16	1.60	Mr. Bridgway	1.28	.32	
5.5.75	15	1.50	Mr. Milk Hall	.63	.30	59 For Washing up
19.5.75	16	1.60	Sgt. Coombes, Corley	1.21	.06	33 Stationery
2.6.75	12	1.20	Mr. Toller	.90	—	30 Biscuits
16.6.75	15	1.50	Mr. Love	.39	—	75 Washing up Single 30
30.6.75	15	1.50	Mr. Acroyd	1.50	—	
14.7.75	13	1.30	Mr. Trecker	.80	—	529 in 4000 5000
28.7.75	17	1.70	Mr. Tossana	1.64	—	6 Milk
11.8.75	19	1.90	Mr. Clayton	1.71	—	28 Milk 11 Tea
8.9.75	19	1.90	Mr. Power, Corley	1.82	—	28 Milk
22.9.75	19	1.90	Mr. D. H. Taylor	1.21	—	25 Milk 10 Biscuits
6.10.75	19	1.90	Mr. Acroyd	1.64	—	16 Milk
20.10.75	20	2.00	Mr. Foster	1.80	—	10 Tea
3.11.75	23	2.30	Mr. Smith	2.30	—	
17.11.75	19	1.90	Mr. Crookshank	1.75	—	25 Milk
1.12.75	20	2.00	Mr. Westhead	1.85	—	25 Milk
15.12.75	21	2.10	Mr. Ballcock	2.05	—	25 Milk
29.12.75	2	2.00	Mr. T. Wood	1.30	—	10 Tea 25 Milk
		<u>13.40</u>		<u>35.02</u>		8 78

Settle - District News Forum

Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31.12.75

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
£ Members' Fees / 43.10	1. Hire of Rooms / 8.00
	2. Office for 6
	Mr. H. S. S. 2.25
	3. Equipment 3.24
	4. Stationery 0.35
	5. Washing up 1.32
	6. Refreshments 6.79
	7. Bank Charges 1.50
	8. Bank balance at 31.12.75 20.03
<u>£ 43.10</u>	<u>£ 43.10</u>

L. B. Clapp Treasurer
C. C. Clark Auditor

Settle & District Men's Forum

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended December 31 2015

	2014	2015
Receipts		
Subscriptions	350.00	308.00
Members' AGM Lunch contributions	208.00	140.00
November Annual Dinner	480.00	494.00
Bank Interest	9.18	8.68
Total Receipts	1,047.18	950.68
Payments		
Subscriptions to SSC (from 2014)		6.00
Donation to SCC for use of room (2014)	30.00	30.00
Secretary's Honorarium (2014)		25.00
AGM Lunches, including gratuity	290.00	266.00
Subscriptions to Settle Social Club	47.00	33.00
Donation to SCC for use of room		30.00
Subscription to NC Heritage Trust	35.00	35.00
Hire of Hall (Society of Friends)	15.00	
Refreshments and Administration	12.32	14.65
Secretary's Honorarium		25.00
Annual Dinner, including gratuity	485.00	607.50
Total Payments made	884.32	1,072.15
Outstanding liabilities		0.00
Total Receipts		950.68
Total Payments		1,072.15
In Year deficit		-121.47

Reconciliation of funds			
	31.12.2014		31.12.2015
Cash	119.64		29.99
Building Society	1,380.12		863.30
Total	1,499.76		893.29
Deduct liabilities	485.00		0.00
Carry fwd 2014 to 2015	1,014.76		
In Year deficit 2015	121.47		
c/f - In Year Deficit	893.29	Current Assets	893.29

I have examined the records and am satisfied that the accounts represent correctly the financial state of Settle and District Men's Forum at 31st December 2015

A. Bailey Treasurer


T. Robinson. Examiner

SETTLE & DISTRICT MEN'S FORUM
Statement of Account for Year Ending 31st December 2004

2003	Income	2004
£281.00	37 Members subscriptions @ £8	£296.00
£93.00	AGM Lunch at Royal Oak, 29 lunches @ £4, 1@ £8	£124.00
£478.00	Annual Trip. Fares & Entry to Wigan Pier	-
£0.61	Bank Interest	£1.20
£852.61	TOTAL INCOME	£421.20
£261.63	Balance b/f at 1st Jan 2004	£262.16
£1,114.24		£683.36

John C. Caldwell TREASURER

Arthur Partridge AUDITOR

2003	Expenditure	2004
£2.00	Copies of Balance Sheet	£2.00
£246.45	Royal Oak - 30 lunches @£8.00 & tip for staff (£15)	£255.00
£39.00	Membership fees to Social Club - 37@ £1	£37.00
-	New members joining fee (3)	£15.00
£15.00	Hire of Victoria Hall (1 meeting)	-
£480.75	Outing (Wigan)	-
£6.49	New A/C Book	-
£30.00	Annual donation to Social Club	£30.00
£25.00	Honorarium to Secretary	£25.00
£7.39	Refreshments	£9.50
£852.08	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£373.50
£262.16	Balance c/f at 31 December	£309.86
£1,114.24		£683.36

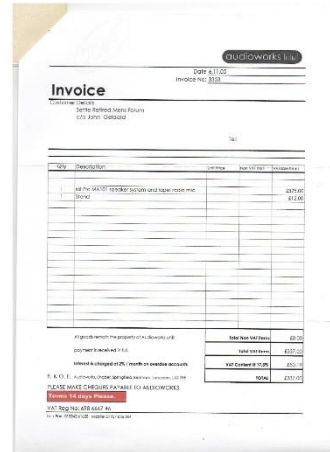
Meeting places

The Ashfield Settle Social Club was used for many years but in later times the Forum suffered occasional problems with the Social Club with the caretaker not easily contactable and the front door once being locked, as well as the rather dim lighting and access to light switches, and complaints by various organizations about keeping the kitchen clean. St John's Methodist Church meeting room was then used several times. However, the oblong room shape at the church was not really suitable for showing pictures on a screen. Parking was very limited. A large private room at the Royal Oak was used several times but the arrangement of chairs and tables was not ideal and much physical effort was required in setting up a projector and screen. Members were not enabled easily to 'mingle', the tables being in a horseshoe arrangement. The Friends Meeting House in Settle eventually proved a most convenient comfortable meeting place for the Forum, easily accessible to all with nearby parking and at reasonable cost. After 2022 the Meeting House installed a large TV screen which could be coupled to any (modern) laptop computer which made illustrated talks so much easier to set up.

In 2005 a speaker system with lapel radio microphone and stand were purchased for £337. A number of members were having difficulty with hearing even in a small room. Transport of the equipment was an issue at times and storage at venues was not always possible. At the Friends Meeting House a hearing loop system was installed about 2020 which was beneficial.



Friends Meeting House



Loud-speaker invoice

Conduct of meetings

A Rule Book underwent modification in later years but eventually conditions of membership and rules of behaviour were not imposed formally. Originally there was an Executive Committee but when membership declined this was disbanded since the five or more Executive members became too large a proportion of total membership. At each meeting the Chairman and Secretary controlled business matters, using a gavel. (A gavel is a small hammer with which the chair of a meeting hits a surface to call for attention or order. a symbol of authority – possibly originally a stonemason’s hammer).



Gavel provided by Harold Foxcroft

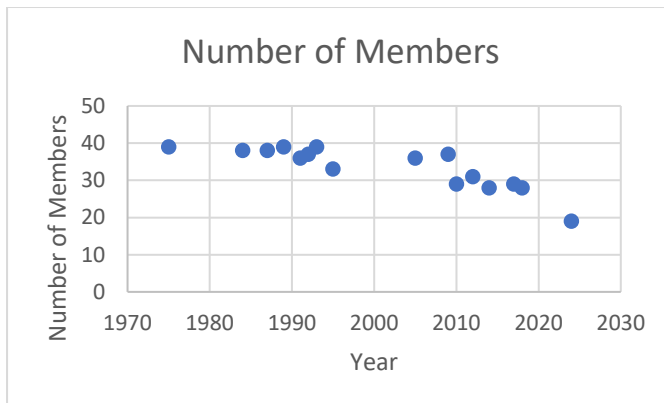
The Secretary prepared the agenda and wrote the Minutes, including a précis of the previous talk, in various degrees of legibility and fulsomeness, which for the previous meeting were read out and signed by the Chairman if agreed to be correct.

In later years an overall Chairman was agreed to speak for the Forum on occasion and to support the Secretary and Treasurer if required, but at each meeting members took it in turn to be the meeting Chairman and were on a rota to speak at the following meeting.

Membership

From the first, membership was limited to 40 members but a waiting list was noted and members had to ask permission to invite new colleagues. A vote was then taken – there is no note of anyone being refused membership! Total membership was 35 members initially in

1975 and was about 40 for many years. From 1977 to 1993 numbers present at meetings were typically about 25 to 33 and expressed in the Minutes as percentages of the total of about 65 to 80% typically. In 1986 it was agreed that ‘Any member not attending a minimum of 60% of meetings of the Forum in a calendar year without reasonable cause shall have his membership cancelled’. This happened occasionally with exceptions for those with temporary health problems. Membership was said to be dwindling in 1990 and ‘... more suitable people should be invited ...’, a statement open to misunderstanding perhaps. The concept of Associate membership was adopted in about 2010 to allow those with health difficulties affecting regular attendance to be welcomed to meetings when they were able to come.



Various men joined, resigned, or died at times throughout the year so consistent numbers are not easy to determine. Only twice in 50 years were there serious matters of disagreement between members which were only resolved by resignations. A high degree of friendship, tolerance and concern for welfare were otherwise the hallmarks of the Forum. But only in 2011 was it agreed that members could be addressed by their Christian names – when a second Ian Smith became a member.

In 1998 records of membership were computerized. In 2008 the death was recorded of Jack Jones, the remaining founder member, at the age of 99.

From the Minutes

The early Minutes are notable for their lack of brevity about procedure and much concern for the Rules, but little about the substance of talks. It was the mid-90s before detailed accounts of talks were given, usually very witty and worth archiving. The Minutes are notable for excuses occasionally made by secretaries for supposed inadequate description of talks. Secretaries laboured under difficulties such as keeping awake, forgetting to take notes of a very absorbing talk, finding talks difficult to comprehend, or unable to see in the dim lighting or no lighting when slides were shown. One of our Secretaries had a poetic turn of mind, reflected in an inimitable style of his report – but with near-illegible handwriting. Unfortunately on one occasion ‘the ball-point pen he was using dried up one quarter the way through the talk’ but this seemed not to inhibit his ability to write a précis afterwards. Successive Forum Secretaries ‘who have wrestled with their notes in attempting to condense them into Minutes which might bear any kind of resemblance to what was said could be forgiven ...’ The speakers also had problems occasionally – ‘Speaker for the day, courtesy of paracetamol and laxative was ...’ (Or did he mean imodium?)

On occasion a member failed to remember that he was scheduled to give a talk, so someone else volunteered with an impromptu talk, or the hapless forgetful member had to do his best. Now a yearly schedule is prepared to (try to) avoid this happening.

Over several years the dim lighting in the Settle Social Club meeting room led to discussion about buying a lamp and the other problem was that the light switches lay behind the locked grill protecting the bar. It is not clear how or when these weighty matters were resolved. Possibly never due to expense of refitting.

In 1977 the chairman recommended the Cookery Class held at Settle Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Perhaps he was a participant.

It was once noted by the President that ‘many of its members appeared to get younger the more they attended its meetings’. Occasionally however there were hints of moments of tension: the Secretary said ‘that it was clearly stated on the rota that the member who attended to the provision of tea for the second time of two consecutive meetings was required to bring a pint of milk’. The breaking of Rules was frowned upon. The management of the Settle Social Club once had to complain about the tea pot in the kitchen. It was decided that ‘the tea rota should continue to operate but that instead of providing tea, its duties in future should be to leave the accommodation as found and in particular to empty the cigarette ash tray in the dust bin.’ Should the 20p fee be continued to be paid when no tea was provided? This was a subject needing review at the next AGM, when having tea served at the Club was a restored feature of meetings. Unfortunately on one occasion ‘Mr ..., having had a fall in his cellar, chasing a mouse, was unable to help make the tea’.

Discussion about where to go on the annual coach trip featured most years. The idea of visiting the nuclear reactor site and exhibition centre at Windscale in Cumbria cropped up repeatedly but was always deferred and never was agreed. One talk was about observing from the air the nuclear bomb test explosion on Christmas Island in 1958.

In 1997 the supply of coffee as well as tea was agreed.

The singing of Happy Birthday or congratulations on significant wedding anniversaries was occasionally recorded.

Election of officers by show of hands at one point replaced secret ballots to save time and labour but balloting was reintroduced shortly afterwards.

The Covid disaster

The country was subject to lockdown of all activity nearly all the time from March 2020 to December 2021 and members had to be very cautious about assembling in crowded places beyond this period, older people being at considerable risk. Meetings were abandoned after March 2020. A lunch meeting was held in September 2020 during a temporary lull but there were no more meetings until January 2022 when these were organized with the (free) Zoom technology whereby participants could see each other, listen to a talk, and then join in with discussion with the speaker and with other members. Meetings during the rest of 2022 were held at the Friends Meeting House where new air extraction equipment had been installed, which allowed us to re-convene in a group. But attendance had reduced markedly thereafter to 10 to 20 members on each occasion, with some of our members deemed to be at serious risk as a result of any infection.

Conclusion

The Settle and District Men's Forum will celebrate its 50th anniversary in January 2025 and is set to continue as long as members wish to agree that:

'The aim of the Forum is to promote good fellowship by regular meetings of members for discussion and entertainment' as stated in the Rules in 1993.

Text: M J Slater. Artwork: F Gordon. June 2024

APPENDICES

Appendix:

A full list of all talks from 1975 to 2024 has been prepared

Subjects of talks in 1975 and 1976 give a good idea of the variety of member's interests

1975

Mr Martin Beecroft – Yachting – with colour slides
Mr Rex Brindle – The Yorkshire Dales
Mr Nicholls – The Royal Mews to Royal Ballroom via the Royal Gardens
Mr Bradley – Farming (Mr Wood was Tea wallah)
Mr Shepherd – Trip to Australia, with colour transparencies
Mr N. Preston – Life a century ago
Mr John L. Midgley – Architecture
Mr Mitchell – The Settle / Carlisle railway and its bridges, held in the Assembly Rooms
Sgt. Cooley – Police and Cave and Pothole rescue work
Mr T. Faulkner – Scotland
Mr T. Wood – Early life up to time as a prisoner of war in 1917
Mr H. G. Ackroyd – The Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and a film about Malta
Mr E. Brooks – Life in the sheet metal merchandizing business from 1908 (a graphic description)
Mr Turpin – Motorcycling in 1910
Mr R. C. Clayton – Lloyds Register of shipping
Mr Power – Working at Castleberg Hospital
(tea cups and saucers on loan from the Royal British Legion)
Dr David Hyslop – Cave rescue and the care of injured – demonstration of stretcher
Mr Ackroyd – Plastering (a most interesting talk)
Mr J. H. Glover – The Common Market
Mr Brindle – Prison visiting
Inspector Cruikshank – The policeman's role in rural areas
Mr Weatherill – The policeman's role from 1918
Mr Wellock – Agriculture from 1900 to 1975
Mr Wood – Recollections of life in the British Army in WWI

1976

Mr Hopwood spoke of his comprehensive school teaching experiences
Mr Mason (born 1898) talked about his early life contrasting then and now
Mr Longbottom talked about Ashanti gold weights – 8056 specimens collected

Mr Taylor spoke about banking 50 years ago (Beckett's Bank, Leeds)
 Mr Mitchell (editor of the Dalesman) showed items from his natural history collection
 Mrs Longstaff (née Riley) discussed memories of a child, a naturalist's small daughter
 Revd Burgon spoke of the humorous side of a Methodist Minister's work
 Mr Nicholls – Reminiscences
 Mr W. Daniels spoke of his tour of Bavaria in 1972
 Mr Parr spoke about social services
 Mr R. Trusler (of John Roberts and Son) talked about the production of paper packaging
 Mr Postlethwaite talked about speech and public speaking
 Mr Preston discussed water supplies
 Mr McMakin (Settle creamery) talked about the dairy industry
 Mr Joy (of the Dalesman) spoke on the subject of railways
 Mr Brown spoke about the League of Hospital Friends
 Eddy Percy - Celebrations in Settle – a ciné film
 Mr Bradley spoke about local government
 Frank Reid - Local scenes in winter – colour slides
 Mr F. G. Wood - Newmarket by an outsider
 Mr Mackley talked about Hong Kong
 Mr Hodgson talked about waterways and locks
 Mr Daniels - 'Ireland and the Irish'

Appendix: Dinner costs

1986 33 persons at £4	2003 31 at £7-95
1988 30 at £4	2004 30 at £8
1989 31 at £4	2005 30 at £7-50
1990 28 at £4	2006 34 at £7-50
1991 26 at £4-50	2007 33 at £8-95
1993 29 at £5-50	2008 25 at £9
1998 29 at £7	2009 34 at £16
1999 28 at £7	2010 28 at £14-50
2000 28 at £7-50	2010 23 at £10
2001 30 at £7-50	2011 29 at £16
2002 30 at £7-50	
2012 24 at £15	

Appendix: Bank Balances

1975 £20-03 ; 1976 £38-80 ; 1977 £50-25 ; 1978 £52-07 ; 1979 £49-07 ; 1980 £40-76 ; 1981 £52-74 ; 1982 £102-10 ; 1983 £139-39 ; 1984 £129-37 ; 1985 £114-10 ; 1986 £114-85 ; 1987 £58-49 ; 1988 £54-09 ; 1989 £56-25 ; 1990 £186-13 ; 1991 £130-95 ; 1992 £104-44 ; 1993 £188-23 ; 1994 £223-93 ; 1995 £141-25 ; 1996 £110-20 ; 1997 £90-66 ; 1998 £101-10 ; 1999 £146-89 ; 2000 £201-39 ; 2001 £261-87 ; 2002 £261-63


Appendix: Excursions

1976 A visit to Settle Creamery was made by 25 members.
 1979 Mystery tour to the Lake District
 1981 Lake District
 1982 Harlow Carr gardens, Harrogate
 1983 York

- 1984 Durham and Barnard Castle
- 1986 Ravenglass and Eskdale railway (£90)
- 1987 York, Viking Museum (£85)
- 1988 Chester (£110)
- 1989 Liverpool, Albert Dock (£100)
- 1990 Lake District (£185)
- 1991 Bedale, Sedburgh area (£140)
- 1992 York (£162)
- 1993 Windermere, Bowness (£136)
- 1994 Burnley and Whalley
- 1995 Coach, rail and boat trip to the Lakes
- 1996 Eden Camp, Malton and Modern History Theme Museum (£170)
- 1997 Chester
- 1998 Holker Hall (£140)
- 1999 Glenridding, Ullswater, boat to Pooley Bridge – cancelled – too wild! (£200)
- 2000 Markenfield Hall, Snape Castle, Marmion Tower (Joint with Local Studies Group)
- 2001 Bridgewater Hall, Lowry Centre, Salford (£190)
- 2002 Bishopthorpe Palace, York (£225)
- 2003 Wigan Pier (£210)
- 2006/7 Hartlepool Maritime Museum (non-members invited and profit £89)
- 2009 Pooley Bridge

Invoice No: 1992

BIBBY'S OF INGLETON



(FRED BIBBY & SON) **COACH HIRE EXPERTS**

20 June 1990
 Mr Greenwood
 4 West View
 SETTLE
 North Yorks

MEALBANK GARAGE, INGLETON,
 VIA CARNFORTH, LANCs.
 Telephone: (0468) 41330 & 41783

SETTLE & DISTRICT MENS FORUM
 Monday, 18 June 1990

TO the hire of 1 x 53 seater coach from
 Settle to the Lake District and return,
 on the above date.

1 coach @ £185 00

RECEIVED WITH THANKS
 2 JUL 1990
FRED BIBBY & SON (COACHES)

*18 JUN 1990
 10 LINDSEY AVENUE
 NORTH YORKS
 01753 2400
 Tel. 01753 2400*

VAT Reg. No. 179 6319 20 Bankers: NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK

VAT No: 175 3592 41

K. & M. K. HODSON

DEER PARK GARAGE & GARDEN CENTRE

CLITHEROE ROAD, GIBBURN

COACH HIRE HAULAGE 2140

REPAIRS, SERVICING, BATTERIES, TYRES, BREAKDOWN SERVICE
 Telephone: GIBBURN 284

M.O.T. TESTING

14th Oct, 1993

Settle Men's Forum
 c/o Greenhead Lane
 SETTLE
 N. Yorks
 HD24 9HG

COACH HIRE - 18th Oct, 1993

Pick up 9.30am Ashfield Car Park

To:- Country Run - Windermere
 Bowness

Rtn:- Back to Settle for 3.30pm

3.90
 Rate:- £3-50 per head.


136 TC

*Paul will
 Read
 D. D. 1993*

1986


LUXURY TRAVEL BY CAR MINI-BUS COACH
 12, 29, 45 & 53 SEATER COACHES AVAILABLE FOR ALL TYPES OF ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL TRAVEL

INGFIELD COACHES LTD. ♦ SETTLE ♦ N.YORKS.

King of Cities Shepherd Walk Settle N.Yorks.	Depart in accordance with the Rules of the N.Yorks.	Day Night	Stockings 2588 2589	
---	--	--------------	---------------------------	---

VAT Reg. No. 381 1186 E3

842 MR. R. GERRARD
Settle - District Mass Forum
30/6/1986

TO COACH HIRE 9-30 AM SETTLE TO RAVERSHAM + RETURN APPROX 7-00PM	£90 00
<i>PAID CASH</i>  30/6/86	
£ 90 00	

DO NOT FORGET — TELEPHONE — INGFIELD — QUOTATION

Appendix: The Rules

FORUM
 RULES



1975

MINUTES
OF MEETING OF
THE SETTLE & DISTRICT MEN'S FORUM

Held at the Old Education Office, Castle Hill, Settle,
on Monday 13th. January 1975.

Chairman : Mr. L.P.Dutton.

Present : Messrs. H.G.Ackroyd, E.Brookes, D.Cameron,
W.R.Clark, R.C.Clayton, G.W.E.Gray, H.Heaton,
H.Humphries, J.F.S.Jones, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~, J.Maunders,
R.Nicholls, K.Percy, T.W.Postlethwaite, N.Preston,
J.Roberts, R.Rowley. T.WOOD

Item 1.

Consideration was given to the question of Title
and Constitution of the Settle & District Men's Forum
and it was unanimously resolved that :-

1. The Title shall be THE SETTLE & DISTRICT MEN'S FORUM.
2. Membership shall normally be open to men who are
retired or semi-retired. The members to be admittēd
shall be at the discretion of an Executive Committee.
3. The Forum shall be controlled by an Executive
Committee composed of the President, Chairman,
Secretary, Treasurer, and two others, and all shall
be elected annually by the members of the Forum.
Speakers will be provided by members according to
rota. The President shall be ex-officio a member
of all Committees and sub-Committees in connection
with the Forum.

If an office becomes vacant during any year it shall
be filled by a temporary appointment, made by the
Executive Committee, until the next Annual Meeting.
The Executive Committee shall meet at the discretion
of the Chairman.

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Forum must be
convened at the request of at least 6 (six) members.

4. The Forum shall be non-sectarian and non-party political and shall not accumulate money other than for necessary Forum expenses. If any balance accumulates over and above the normal requirements it shall be disbursed for the benefit of the Forum members as and when the Executive Committee deems it to be wise.
5. The Chairman shall preside at the fortnightly meetings of the Forum and if unable to be present he shall acquaint the President so that he may take the Chair. If both President and Chairman are unable to be present the Chairman shall nominate a Forum member to act as Chairman for that meeting.
6. Nominations for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee must be handed to the Secretary, in writing at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Proposers and Seconders must obtain the consent of nominees.
7. The Annual Meeting of the Forum shall be at the First meeting in January. Voting at the Annual Meeting shall be by ballot, the Presiding Officer to select scrutineers and to announce the names of those elected. The Officers appointed will take over duties immediately.
8. At meetings of the Executive Committee and at the Annual or any General Meeting of the Forum, the Chairman shall be entitled to vote as a member, and in the event of a tie, whether he has previously voted or not, he shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
9. No change shall be made in this Constitution without the consent of 75% of the members present and voting at a meeting of which four weeks' notice has been given at meetings of the Forum. Such proposed changes in the Constitution must be in writing and signed by not less than six members of the Forum and handed to the Secretary.
10. The Forum shall meet fortnightly on Mondays.

11. The Treasurer shall bank all moneys belonging to the Forum; all cheques to be signed by any two of the following Officers;-
Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary.

Item 2.

Appointment of Officers.

After due consideration it was unanimously agreed that a request should be made to Maj. Gen. T.H. Birkbeck, C.B.E., D.S.O., that he would be the Forum's President.

Other Officers and Executive Committee members appointed by unanimous vote were;-

Chairman Mr. L.P. Dutton.
Honorary Secretary, Mr. J.F.S. Jones.
Honorary Treasurer, Mr. R.C. Clayton.
Executive Committee Members, Messrs. D. Cameron and T. Wood.

There being no other business the Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

L.P. Dutton
27/1/75

AMENDED RULES.JAN. 1978.

THE SETTLE & DISTRICT MEN'S FORUM

1. The title shall be THE SETTLE & DISTRICT MEN'S FORUM.
2. Membership shall normally be open to men who are retired or semi-retired. The members to be admitted shall be at the discretion of an Executive Committee, who shall also have the right to remove from membership, by unanimous vote of the Committee, any person whose continued membership they consider to be no longer desirable, without obligation to give any reason for their decision.
3. The Forum shall be controlled by an Executive Committee composed of the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and two others, and all shall be elected annually by the members of the Forum. Speakers will be provided by members according to rota. The President shall be ex-officio a member of all Committees and sub-Committees in connection with the Forum. If an office becomes vacant during any year it shall be filled by a temporary appointment, made by the Executive Committee, until the next Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee shall meet at the Discretion of the Chairman.
An extra-ordinary meeting of the Forum must be convened at the request of at least 6 (six) members.
4. The Forum shall be non-sectarian and non-party-political and shall not accumulate money other than for necessary Forum expenses. If any balance accumulates over and above the normal requirements it shall be disbursed at the discretion of the Forum members as and when the Executive Committee deems it to be wise.
5. The Chairman shall preside at the fortnightly meetings of the Forum and if unable to be present, the Vice-Chairman shall preside. In the event of both Chairman and Vice-Chairman being absent, members present shall nominate one of their number to take the Chair on that occasion.
6. Nominations for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee must be handed to the Secretary, in writing at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Proposers and Seconders must obtain the consent of nominees.
7. The Annual Meeting of the Forum shall be at the first meeting in January. Voting at the Annual Meeting shall be by ballot, the Presiding Officer to select scrutineers and to announce the names of those elected. The Officers appointed will take over duties immediately.
8. At meetings of the Executive Committee and at the Annual or any General Meeting of the Forum, the officiating Chairman shall be entitled to vote as a member, and in the event of a tie, whether he has previously voted or not, he shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
9. No change shall be made in the Constitution without the consent of 75 % of the members present and voting at a meeting of which four weeks' notice has been given at meetings of the Forum. Such proposed changes in the Constitution must be in writing and signed by not less than six members of the Forum and handed to the Secretary.
10. The Forum shall normally meet fortnightly on Mondays, but the Committee may, for good reason, cancel a meeting or arrange for it to be held on any day other than a Sunday as may be more convenient for members.
11. The Treasurer shall bank all moneys belonging to the Forum; all cheques to be signed by any two of the following Officers:- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary.

1993

SETTLE & DISTRICT MEN'S FORUM ---- RULES

TITLE.

The title will be: 'Settle & District Men's Forum.'

AIM.

The aim of the Forum is to promote good fellowship by regular meetings of members for discussion and entertainment.

MEMBERSHIP.

Eligibility. Membership will be open to men who are retired or semi-retired.

Social Club. All members are required to join Settle Social Club.

Numbers. The number of full members will not exceed 40.

Election. Any new member must be proposed by an existing member and will be admitted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Guests. A prospective member may be introduced as a guest at one of the Forum's normal fortnightly meetings, provided that the prior permission of the Secretary has been obtained. If a member wishes to bring any other guest to a meeting (a visiting relative for example) the prior permission of the Secretary must also be obtained. Any such visitor must satisfy the Forum's eligibility rule. The eligibility rule does not apply to guest speakers.

Waiting List. If the number of full members is 40, the names of prospective new members, whose applications have been approved by the Executive Committee, will be placed on a waiting list. They may be admitted (in order of application date), when vacancies occur.

Attendance. Members should have attended no less than 60% of Forum meetings in the preceding twelve months. The failure of any member to comply with this rule may result in the revocation of his membership if there is anyone on the waiting list.

Termination of Membership. The Executive Committee has the right, by unanimous vote, to remove from membership any person whose continued membership is no longer considered to be desirable.

Sickness. If a member cannot attend a meeting or meetings due to ill-health, such non-attendance will not count in relation to the non-attendance rule. A committee member will take responsibility for reporting to members on the status of sick members and for arranging visits, transport or such other help as members may be able to provide.

Associate Membership. If a member can no longer attend Forum meetings due to age or infirmity, he may, if he wishes, become an associate member. An associate member will not, of course, be asked to provide a speaker or undertake tea duties. He will however continue to be considered a Forum member in relation to visits etc. and if his health improves to the extent that he can resume attendance at some or all Forum meetings, he will be reinstated as a full member.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Administration. The Forum will be administered by the Executive Committee, membership of which will comprise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, President and two other members.

President. A senior, long serving member of the Forum will be invited by the Executive Committee to take the Presidency. The post of President is either for life or until such time as he chooses to relinquish the position.

Officers. The officers will consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

Co-option. The Executive Committee is empowered to co-opt committee members either to fill positions which may become vacant during the year or for any other good reason.

MEETINGS.

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will meet at the discretion of the Chairman.

Quorum. The Executive Committee quorum will be four.

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting will be the first meeting in January of each year. The President will preside. Members will receive the Chairman's Annual Report and an Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer and audited by the appointed auditor. The officers and members of the Executive Committee will be elected and the appointment of the auditor confirmed.

Extraordinary General Meetings. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee or at the request of six members of the Forum.

Casting Vote. At all meetings, the officiating Chairman will be entitled to vote as a member and, in the event of a tie, whether he has previously voted or not, he will be entitled to a second or casting vote.

Forum Meetings. Meetings will normally be held fortnightly on Mondays (excluding bank holidays) and the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman) will preside. If neither Chairman nor Vice-Chairman is present, the members present will appoint one of their number to take the chair for that meeting. The Executive Committee may, for good reason, cancel a meeting or arrange for it to be held on any other day, other than a Sunday, as may be more convenient for members.

Smoking. Members may not smoke in the meeting room.

ACTIVITIES.

Speakers. Speakers for normal meetings will be provided by members in turn according to a rota prepared and published by the Executive Committee. All members will take their turn on the rota unless excused by the Executive Committee for good reason.

Restrictions. The Forum will be non-sectarian and non-party-political. There will be no discussion on matters relating to sex, politics or religion.

Assistance to Speakers. A member of the committee will be designated to provide speaker assistance. This may include help in the choice of speaker (if the member is unwilling or unable to speak himself), and with the provision and use of equipment (e.g. slide projector, projector stand, extension lead, screen, audio equipment etc.).

Expenses. The member responsible for providing the speaker will also be responsible for any expenses incurred. In exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Executive Committee, financial assistance may be given, providing that funds are available.

Vote of Thanks. A vote of thanks to the Speaker will be given by a member invited to do so by the officiating Chairman.

Tea Duties. Members (other than the President, officers and committee members) will be invited to take their turn in making tea for the members. The Executive Committee will prepare the rota for such duties.

Annual Lunch. The Forum will hold a members' annual lunch to take place immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting in January.

Outing. The Executive Committee will seek to arrange an annual Summer outing each year the nature of which will be discussed and agreed with the members.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Written nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee must be handed to the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Proposers and seconders must have previously obtained the consent of their nominees.

In the event of there being more than one nomination for any officer post or more than two nominations for the committee, voting will be by ballot. The President will select scrutineers to count the votes and will announce the names of those elected. Elected officers and committee members will commence their duties forthwith.

FUNDS.

Treasurer. The Treasurer will be responsible for the collection of monies due to the Forum, the payments of accounts and the banking of monies belonging to the Forum. All cheques must be signed by two of the following officers:- Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

Annual Accounts. The Treasurer will produce a statement of accounts for the preceeding year for submission to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Application. Funds will not accumulate other than as agreed with members and will be applied solely to expenditure necessary for the efficient continuation of the Forum's activities. Funds cannot be donated to other organisations.

Subscriptions. Each member will pay a subscription, the amount of which will be determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the members. This subscription will be collected twice a year, in June and December. No subscription will be required from associate members.

Auditor. The annual statement of accounts will be verified by an auditor recommended by the Executive Committee and confirmed by members at the Annual General Meeting.

CHANGES TO THE RULES.

No change will be made to these rules without the consent of two-thirds of all full members. Proposals for changes to the rules must be tabled at an Extraordinary General Meeting of which four weeks prior notice must be given. Proposed changes must be in writing and signed by not less than six members and handed to the Secretary who will undertake to circulate them to all members prior to the Extraordinary General Meeting.

Any member who is unable to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting may nominate another member to vote by proxy. The proxy must be given to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

SETTLE & DISTRICT MEN'S FORUM

RULES

TITLE

The title will be: 'Settle & District Men's Forum.'

AIM

The aim of the Forum is to promote good fellowship by regular meetings of members for discussion and entertainment.

MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility. Membership will be open to men who are retired or semi-retired.

Social Club. All members are required to join Settle Social Club.

Numbers. The number of full members will not exceed 40.

Election. Any new member must be proposed by an existing member and will be admitted at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Guests. A prospective member may be introduced as a guest at one of the Forum's normal fortnightly meetings, provided that the prior permission of the Secretary has been obtained. If a member wishes to bring any other guest to a meeting (a visiting relative for example) the prior permission of the Secretary must also be obtained. Any such visitor must satisfy the Forum's eligibility rule. The eligibility rule does not apply to guest speakers.

Waiting List. If the number of full members is 40, the names of prospective new members, whose applications have been approved by the Executive Committee, will be placed on a waiting list. They may be admitted (in order of application date), when vacancies occur.

Attendance. Members should have attended no less than 60% of Forum meetings in the preceding twelve months. The failure of any

2

member to comply with this rule may result in the revocation of his membership if there is anyone on the waiting list.

Termination of Membership. The Executive Committee has the right, by unanimous vote, to remove from membership any person whose continued membership is no longer considered to be desirable.

Sickness. If a member cannot attend a meeting or meetings due to ill-health, such non-attendance will not count in relation to the non-attendance rule. A committee member will take responsibility for reporting to members on the status of sick members and for arranging visits, transport or such other help as members may be able to provide.

Associate Membership. If a member can no longer attend Forum meetings due to pressing reasons, he may, if he wishes and at the discretion of the Committee, become an associate member. An associate member will not be asked to provide a speaker or undertake tea duties. He will however continue to be considered a Forum Member in relation to visits etc, and if his circumstances change to the extent that he can resume attendance at some or all Forum meetings, he will be reinstated as a full member

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Administration. The Forum will be administered by the Executive Committee, membership of which will comprise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, two other members and, ex officio, the Past-Chairman.

Past-Chairman. The Chairman, on retiring, will become, ex-officio, the Past-Chairman for the tenure of the current Chairman.

Officers. The officers will consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

3

Co-option. The Executive Committee is empowered to co-opt committee members either to fill positions which may become vacant during the year or for any other good reason.

MEETINGS

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will meet at the discretion of the Chairman

Quorum. The Executive Committee quorum will be four.

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting will be not later than the second meeting in February of each year. The Past-Chairman will preside. In the absence of the Past-Chairman, those members present shall elect one of their number to act as Past-Chairman for the duration of the AGM. Members will

receive the Chairman's Annual Report and an Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer and audited by the appointed auditor. The officers and members of the Executive Committee will be elected and will serve until the next Annual General Meeting and the appointment of the auditor will be confirmed.

Extraordinary General Meetings. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee or at the request of six members of the Forum. **Casting Vote.** At all meetings, the officiating Chairman will be entitled to vote as a member and, in the event of a tie, whether he has previously voted or not, he will be entitled to a second or casting vote.

Forum Meetings. Meetings will normally be held fortnightly on Mondays (excluding bank holidays) and the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman) will preside. If neither Chairmen nor Vice-Chairman is present, the members present will appoint one of their number to take the chair for that meeting. The Executive Committee may, for good reason, cancel a meeting or arrange for it to be held on any other day, other than a Sunday, as may be more convenient for members.

4

Smoking. Members may not smoke in the meeting room,

ACTIVITIES

Speakers. Speakers for normal meetings will be provided by members in turn according to a rota prepared and published by the Executive Committee. All members will take their turn on the rota unless excused by the Executive Committee for good reason.

Restrictions. The Forum will be non-sectarian and non-party political. There will be no discussion on matters relating to sex, politics or religion.

Assistance to Speakers. A member of the committee may be designated to provide speaker assistance. This may include help in the choice of speaker (if the member is unwilling or unable to speak himself), and with the provision and use of equipment (e.g. slide projector, projector stand, extension lead, screen, audio equipment etc.).

Expenses The member responsible for providing the speaker will also be responsible for any expenses incurred. In exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Executive Committee, financial assistance may be given, providing that funds are available.

Vote of Thanks. A vote of thanks to the Speaker will be given by a member invited to do so by the officiating Chairman,

Tea Duties. Members (other than the Chairman and Secretary) will be invited to take their turn in making tea for the members. The Executive Committee will prepare the rota for such duties,

Annual Lunch. The Forum will hold a members' annual lunch to take place immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Outing. The Executive Committee will seek to arrange an annual Summer outing each year the nature of which will be discussed and agreed with the members or, alternatively, a formal dinner to which guests may be invited.

5

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Written nominations for officers and members of the Executive Committee must be handed to the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Proposers and seconders must have previously obtained the consent of their nominees. In the event of there being more than one nomination for any officer post or more than two nominations for the committee, voting will be by ballot.

The Chairman is eligible for re-election for a second consecutive term of office,

The Vice Chairman is expected to stand for election as Chairman at the end of the Chairman's term of office.

The Secretary is eligible for re-election for a second consecutive term of office.

The Assistant Secretary is expected to stand for election as Secretary at the end of the Secretary's term of office.

The Past-Chairman will select scrutineers to count the votes and will announce the names of those elected.

Elected officers and committee members will commence their duties after the AGM.

FUNDS

Treasurer. The Treasurer will be responsible for the collection of monies due to the Forum, the payments of accounts and the banking of monies belonging to the Forum. All cheques must be signed by two of the following: Treasurer, and two members elected by the Committee for this purpose.

Annual Accounts. The Treasurer will produce a statement of accounts for the preceding year for submission to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Application. Funds will not accumulate other than as agreed with members and will be applied solely to

expenditure necessary for the efficient continuation of the Forum's activities. Funds cannot be donated to other organisations.

6

Subscriptions. Each member will pay a subscription, the amount of which will be determined by the Executive Committee. This subscription will be collected once a year, in December for the following year. A subscription, reduced at the discretion of the Committee but which includes the Social Club fee, will be required from Associate Members

Auditor. The annual statement of accounts will be verified by an auditor recommended by the Executive Committee and confirmed by members at the Annual General Meeting.

CHANGES TO THE RULES

No change will be made to these rules without the consent of two-thirds of all full members. Proposals for changes to the rules must be tabled at an Extraordinary General Meeting of which four weeks prior notice must be given. Proposed changes must be in writing and signed by not less than six members and handed to the Secretary who will undertake to circulate them to all members prior to the Extraordinary General Meeting. Any member who is unable to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting may nominate another member to vote by proxy, The proxy must be given to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

North Craven Men's Group Rules and Guidelines

Aims

The aim of the Group is to promote good fellowship through meetings with talks and discussion, and entertainment.

Rules

- Membership is open to retired and semi-retired men.
- Members shall treat each other with courtesy and respect.
- The Officers shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be appointed annually at the first meeting of the year.
- The Chairman shall guide the Group but should not be expected to preside at each of the fortnightly meetings.
- The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting and banking of money, paying bills and presenting an examined account of his transactions annually to the group.
- Important decisions, financial and otherwise, shall be made by a majority of the membership as a whole.
- New members should be introduced to the Group by an existing member and after attending two meetings they should be accepted into membership by a majority of the whole group, unless they decline or there are contraindications.
- Any amendments or additions to the rules should be agreed by a majority of the membership as a whole.

Guidelines

- Meetings will be held fortnightly, avoiding Bank Holidays.
- The membership will agree the venue.
- Members, or a person nominated by that Member, will give a presentation to the meetings on a rota basis.
- The Speaker of the fortnightly meeting should be the Chairman at the previous meeting.
- The Secretary shall make a brief note of each meeting.
- Any concerns about the health and well-being of a member may be shared, where appropriate, with other members at the meeting.

Appendix: The Officers

The Forum's first meeting took place on Monday, January 12th 1975 at the Old Education Office, Castle Hill, Settle.

At this meeting, the following officers were appointed:

President: Major General TH Birkbeck CBE DSO

Chairman: LP Dutton

Secretary: JFS Jones

Treasurer: RC Clayton

Executive Committee members: D Cameron T Wood

The first Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, January 12th 1976 at the Wenhaven Café, Settle.

Officers elected were:

Chairman: LP Dutton

Vice-Chairman: T Wood

Secretary: JFS Jones

Treasurer: AC Clayton

(No mention of President.)

Committee members: D Cameron H Humphries

Presidents

T. Birkbeck (1975-6)

L. Dutton (1977-1997)

J. Jones (1997-2008)

D. Secretan (2009-2010)

Treasurer

R. Clayton (1975-1989)

J. Jones (1990-6)

S. Edmondson (1997)

J. Geldard (1998-2007)

K. Wright (2008-14)

A. Bailey (2015 -

Secretary

J. Jones (1975-1985)

R. Geenwood (1986-1991)

A. Partridge (1992)

I. Smith (1993-1999)

B. Birkby (2000-2004)

D. Bird (2005-6)

G. Jenkins (2007-8)

F. Gordon (2009-10)

K. Finnerty (2011-12)

R. Wilcock (2013-14)

H. Calvert (2015-16)

M. Clark (2017)

P. Robinson (2018-2023)

M. Slater (2024-

Chairman

L. Dutton (1975-6)

G. Burgon (1977-84)

W. Morphet (1985-6)

W. Daniels (1987-90)

H. Longbottom (1991-2)

S. Edmondson (1993 -4)

J. Playfer (1995-6)

R. Doughty (1997-8)

D. Secretan (1999)

A. Hemsworth (2000-1)

H. Foxcroft (2002-4)

R. Moss (2005-6)

B. Birkby (2007-8)

C. Petrie (2009-10)

A. King (2011-12)

C. Fryer (2013-14)

M. Cullingworth (2015-16)

J. Hunter (2017)

K. Finnerty (2018)

I. Tennant (2019-23)

C. Fryer (2024-

September 2021

Settle Men's Forum

Covid Advice for meetings

The Royal Oak no longer has restrictions on entry and movement inside the building. However, as many of our group are elderly and vulnerable here are some guidelines:

- Do not attend a meeting if you have any Covid symptoms.
- Use hand sanitiser on entry to the building.
- Seating will be arranged to respect distancing.
- Wear a mask until seated or when moving about the room.
- The room will be ventilated – bring a warm coat.