



Minutes of the ACFAA Annual General Meeting held on 22nd May 2025 at Jardin de Cadix, Eymet

Present

Bureau: Mme RILEY, Claire (President); M MOREAU, Michel (Vice President) ; Mme CLOUGH, Nicole (Treasurer) ; Mme BRACE, Angela (Secretary)

Committee: Mme LACK, Nicola; Mme BLACKMAN, Sally; Mme O'MEARA, Wendy; Mme SUMNER Christine; Mme MCCATHY, Tina, BECKMAN Lindsay, WALTER Maxine

Apologies: John and Avril Parsons, Polly Fellows, Sheila Snijders, Linda Fenty, Michel Mezin, Alan Godfree

Jayne White, Margaret Cowen, David Cowen, Danielle Mattiuzzo, Sarah Allsopp, Monsieur le Maire – Jerome Betaille

Total Attendance including committee - 65

Welcome by President

The President Claire Riley welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM, and explained that the formalities of the meeting would be conducted in English with the Vice President Michel Moreau translating when necessary.

Minutes of last AGM

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM were published to members on the ACFAA web site, and approved by the meeting.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Presidents Report

The President started by thanking Monsieur le Maire, Jerome Betaille and his team for their support and use of the buildings for the Association's activities this past year.

Claire mentioned that the new website was completed during the summer and up and running for the September season. The website has proved an important tool for ACFAA, enabling easier navigation for the user to find out how to become a member, what the Groups are doing, the daily life of the Association, information on our involvement in local community projects and our support for local charities.

ACFAA membership is approaching 800. The Language Department has seen some changes since Sally stepped back from the frontline and there is now a newly formed Language Team, dedicated to ensuring our students enjoy learning French and English.

ACFAA have more than 40 regular volunteers who give up their time to help run the Association. There are currently 18 different Groups, covering Health and Wellbeing, Arts and Culture and Sports and Activities.

The requests from Colleges, Lycée students, and adult learning groups to come to Eymet are becoming increasingly popular. The students are keen to practice their English with ACFAA volunteers, tour the town, and enjoy coffee and cake in the local tea shops. ACFAA always welcome volunteers from the membership to help with these projects.

Claire thanked the Main Committee, the Social Committee, the Language Team, the Group Leaders, our Tutors, and supply teachers, the language facilitators who help at conversation events, the volunteers who help support ACFAA from time to time, and the partners of Committee members stating that their dedication and support are vital for the development of ACFAA.

Language Class Coordinators Report

This year the language department has been overseen by a team of five, Claire Riley, Wendy O'Meara, Fiona Marlow, Michèle Durant and Nicola Lack. They have worked together to manage the inscription and allocation of students to classes, dealt with enquiries and questions over past months and worked with tutors to ensure all students needs are being catered for. They have also organised conversation evenings where people can come together to practise their language skills. The ACFAA classes continue to be extremely popular with over 200 people signing up at the start of the year last September - and paying just 20 euros on top of their ACFAA membership for 30 weeks of lessons.

At complete beginner level ACFAA aim to give people the basics of the language to help them 'get by' in France, whilst the more advanced classes offer people the opportunity to converse, to practise grammar, study texts and learn about the history and culture of France. As well as the eleven French classes ACFAA also have two classes of English at beginner and intermediate level. All lessons are taught by a group of dedicated volunteer tutors, to whom ACFAA remain extremely grateful. Their commitment and enthusiasm are much appreciated.

There were no questions arising from the report.

Finance 2024

The Financial report for the period January 2024 to December 2024 was presented to the meeting by the Treasurer. Mme Clough explained that the Association's financial situation continues to be robust. She explained that good governance requires voluntary associations to have a reserves policy to support unforeseen circumstances, the reserve policy of ACFAA is to hold a balance of between 12-18 months of total expenditure. Membership and costs cannot be precisely predicted each year, some years income exceeds expenditure and some years expenditure exceeds income, as such we maintain a robust reserves policy, we continue to be able to support projects within ACFAA and the community. There were no questions arising from the report. The accounts were approved.

Social Committee Report

All the ACFAA Groups were represented at the Inscription Evening last September and ACFAA were also delighted to be invited to the Associations Day in Eymet. At these events we showcased the extensive range of opportunities for our members to enjoy many different activities and to advertise our social events and trips.

Members have enjoyed several workshops involving cheese and wine and a Meditation demonstration. Visits have been enjoyed at Allemans, Chateau Roquetaillade, Libourne, Bordeaux and Forces in the Gers region. Members also took part in a flight day at Bergerac Flying Club. In October members took part in the battle of the bowling teams to win the President's Trophy. This annual event has proved so popular that a new ACFAA Bowling Group has now been formed. In October the Association supported the Mairie d'Eymet October Rose fund raising walk for cancer. Just over 1700 euros was raised with many of the ACFAA Groups taking part in special fund raising activities for this important charity. In November, ACFAA Line Dancers, The Agnac Crazy Stompers, entertained visitors to the Fete St Catherine, hosted annually by the Comice Agricole, Eymet. ACFAA Craft Group and Atelier Group also supported this event. The Christmas Afternoon Tea was enjoyed by more than 90 members with entertainment provided by Quartette Jazzique. In January ACFAA held a hugely successful Quiz evening and at the beginning of May, and a Line Dancing curry night. The Social Committee work hard to offer members a varied programme of social events and trips and are busy planning an Archery Day, a trip to Chateau Milandes and the summer picnic to end the season. The calendar for the Autumn of 2025 and beyond is already being discussed and planned. There were no questions arising from the report.

Membership Secretary's Report

ACFAA has a record number of 786 members an increase from 758 in 2023/4 and 681 members in 2022/3. This year we have been gathering information on the reason for joining the Association and many have advised that they are new to the area and wish to meet new people and integrate within the community. Others have cited the many groups and events to keep them active. The Association has 191 members who have joined for the first time and this figure includes a high number of French members which now total 128 - 16% of the membership and alongside that we have 110 International members - 14% over the overall membership. The ACFAA association appeals to many people and once again there are members from over 27 Countries and from all Continents.

The HelloAsso payment system has made payment of membership fees easier than cheques/cash and postage. Members who still prefer to pay by this method are still able to and the acfaa.com website gives all of the options. The new ACFAA membership year begins on the 1st September 2025 and membership can be renewed, both online, by post or at the Open Evening planned for the 4th September at La Gare in Eymet.

Election of Committee Places

In accordance with Clause 5 of Internal Rules nominations for Committee, nominations were invited from the membership. Claire Riley and Nicola Lack have completed their term of office this year and are standing for re-election. Claire Riley's re-election is proposed by Wendy O'Meara and seconded by Nicole Clough. Nicola Lack's re-election is proposed by Michel Moreau and seconded by Angela Brace.

Mme RILEY Claire, Mme LACK Nicola re-elected to the committee

Group Leaders Reports

Reports of Group activities had been published to the website. Other reports were provided verbally to the meeting by Caro Hartridge on Line Dancing, Florence Simmonds on Meditation, John Simmonds on the Photography Group MaryAnne Boudreau on Arts, Alison Broader on the Poetry Circle and Social Games and Peter Tayor on Singing for Pleasure

Any Other Business

No any other business

The evening concluded at 18.30 with refreshments and members being invited to view the board/table displays showing the activity from the previous year and the ACFAA offering.

CL Riley -	Angela Brace
Mme RILEY, Claire Présidente	Mme BRACE, Angela Secrétaire
à Eymet	à Eymet
le 30/5/2025	le 30/5/2025