



## Minutes of the ACFAA Annual General Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at Jardin de Cadix, Eymet

### Present

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

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

Apologies: Danielle Mattiuzzo, Angela Brace, David Sweny, Dominique Trouillard, Debbi Miller, Alain Nadzialek, Glenys Morgan-Curtis, Liz & Brian Berks, Elissa Hampson, Carol & Mark Talbot, Alan Godfree, David Crews, Nigel and Dorothy Hartnup, Teresa & Simon Keys, Helene Serpelloni, Paul & Pauline Brown, Florence Simmonds, Peter Taylor, Fiona Marlow.

Total Attendance including committee - 86

### Welcome by President

The President Claire Riley welcomed everyone to the 2026 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 2025 AGM were published to members on the ACFAA web site and approved by the meeting.

### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

### President's Report

Claire spoke about how the Association continues to thrive and evolve with new groups that include Tai Chi and Creative Stitchers, along with conversation classes in French and English and a full events programme, none of which would be possible without the help of our volunteers and committee members.

Last November ACFAA participated in the 5-15 Film Festival. Steve and Nicola Lack produced a film that gave an overall picture of the Association's offer, which can be viewed on our YouTube channel and there is a link to it from the story on the website. The website also gives us the opportunity to keep our members up to date on the daily life of the Association and gives information on community projects and how we are supporting local charities.

We are committed to the continued development of the Association and are reliant both on our membership and on the support from our volunteers, across the groups, language learning opportunities and the Committees. With the ever-expanding number of groups and volunteers, we have developed an expenses policy that will ensure the continued viability of the Association in the future.

We continue to review our membership profile and have made some policy decisions in this respect that will maintain our financial viability as an Association.

From September 2026 there will be a flat 15 euro rate per person in the interests of equality and fairness (removing the couple's discounted rate).

From September 2027, free membership for the over 75's will cease. The existing children and student free membership will remain unchanged.

Claire explained that the committee was seeking approval today for an amendment to our Internal Rules in relation to Committee Members. The term of office for a committee member will reduce from a four year to a two-year tenure. This is to reduce the actual and perceived commitment of being a committee member. The four officer positions, that of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will remain a four-year tenure.

The Association continues to help local charitable associations, and this year we have supported Alzheimer France, Resto du Coeur, Octobre Rose and Secours Populaire.

Claire started by thanking Monsieur le Maire, Jerome Betaille, for providing ACFAA with the buildings for our Groups and language classes to operate in and to congratulate Jerome and his team on their success at the recent

Lastly, Claire thanked everyone involved in supporting the Association, the members, the Group Leaders, our Tutors and other volunteers in the Language department and the Committees.

## **Approval of the Internal Rules**

Approved by members

## **Language Class Coordinators Report**

The ACFAA language team has worked together this year to manage the ever-increasing number of students who benefit from our French and English classes.

It had been decided to run a 21-week programme from September 2025 through till Easter 2026. However, by popular demand – and with the agreement of tutors - it was decided to extend this period for a further 6 weeks, continuing until the end of May. As a result, next year we will resume a 30-week programme, charging just 30 euros for the year's course of lessons.

Our classes range from Absolute Beginners through to Advanced Level. Additionally, we have introduced a French Pure Conversation class, which has proved extremely popular. Consequently, we are now running an additional second French Conversation class and an English Conversation class.

All classes are taught by volunteers. Last September we welcomed four new tutors, Sally Dixon, Monica Duckworth and Ulla Hettlage teaching French and Jane Dunn teaching English.

We continue to be extremely grateful to everyone who helps us with language teaching and appreciate the time, effort and commitment they put in.

There were no questions arising from the report.

## **Finance 2025**

Our financial situation continues to be robust and in line with our reserves policy. With 801 members in 2025 and more than 50 regular volunteers, it is important that we regularly review our finances and policies to ensure the long-term sustainability of ACFAA.

Our continued success depends not only on the support of our members, but also on the dedication of volunteers across our language classes, activity groups, and committees.

As a not-for-profit association, we are unable to pay volunteers for their time. However, we believe that an organisation of our size should have a clear, fair, and transparent policy for reimbursing reasonable expenses incurred while carrying out approved ACFAA activities, including mileage costs where appropriate.

Claiming expenses will remain entirely optional. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that volunteering for ACFAA remains accessible, inclusive, and sustainable for everyone, both now and in the future.

In the same spirit of long-term financial responsibility, we are also simplifying our membership structure. The removal of the couples' discount and the phased ending of free membership for over-75s will help ensure that membership income remains sustainable as our demographic profile evolves over time.

Together, these measures are intended to safeguard the future viability of ACFAA and support the continued delivery of activities and services for all members.

There were no questions arising from the report.

## **Social Committee Report**

The first event of the season was our Inscription Evening, held on 4th September. This provided members with the opportunity to join ACFAA groups and sign up for language classes. Following this, Associations Day gave ACFAA the chance to showcase our groups and promote our full calendar of events and trips. We aim to offer something for everyone from September through to the end of June. Since September, we have hosted a variety of events, including a Bingo Night and a Christmas Quiz Night, and a fabulous Valentine Ball, as well as trips to Belvès, Sarlat, Bordeaux, and Marqueyssac. We've enjoyed a wine tasting at Chateau Wessman, followed by a series of engaging workshops. Highlights included a joyful "singing in harmony" session led by guest Helen Yeomans, a community choir leader from England, and an insightful talk on Feng Shui and energy health from our Mediation Group Leader, Florence Simmonds.

In October, the ACFAA Bowling Group competed in their annual contest for the President's Trophy, which was successfully retained by the previous winners. The challenge is now set for this coming October! Also in October, the October Rose fundraising walk raised 1232.04 euros, with many ACFAA groups organising their own activities to help boost funds for this important cancer charity.

In November, the Comice Agricole hosted the Fête St Catherine, where our ACFAA line dancers, the Agnac Crazy Stompers, entertained visitors with a lively selection of routines. The group, founded in 2006

morning is planned for June, giving members the chance to try out some dance steps. Polly and Caro will share more details.

The Social Committee aims to offer a varied programme of events and trips that appeal to all members. We still have two exciting events to look forward to before the end of the season: a trip to Bordeaux for the Foire Internationale, and our summer picnic on 14th June.

Planning is already underway for the Autumn 2026 calendar, with events for 2027 currently under discussion.

There were no questions arising from the report.

## Membership Secretary's Report

ACFAA has a membership number of 782 which is comparable to last year, but an increase on the previous years. Membership to the Association gives access to a programme of Events, Language Classes where available and 20 groups spanning Sports & Activities, Health & Well-Being, Art and Culture. With the introduction of several new groups, Tai Chi, Bowling and Creative Stitching, we continue to offer many reasons why members want to join.

The Association has 218 members who have joined for the first time, and this is an increase on this time last year. The French and International membership continues to grow as many members continue to make Eymet and its surrounding communes their home. The new ACFAA membership year begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 and runs until August 2027. Membership can be renewed, both online, by post or at the Open Evening planned for early September at La Gare in Eymet. As well as the Open Evening in September, ACFAA plans to host a member evening in January 2027 to update and inform new and existing members of 'What's in it for you?' and how to continue to get the most from your membership.

The Association is always grateful to receive feedback from our members and suggestions for going forward, so please continue to keep in touch via the website or by email. Wendy thanked everyone for being a member of the ACFAA Association and welcomed everyone to the Summer Party in June 2026.

There were no questions arising from the report.

## Election of Committee Places

In accordance with Clause 5 of Internal Rules nominations for Committee, nominations were invited from the membership. Nicole Clough (Treasurer) and Tina McCarthy have completed their term of office this year and are standing for re-election. Nicole Clough re-election is proposed by Max Walter and seconded by Claire Riley. Tina McCarthy re-election is proposed by Michel Moreau and seconded by Nicola Lack. Nicole Clough (Treasurer) and Tina McCarthy re-elected to the committee.

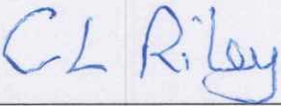

## Group Leaders Reports

Reports of Group activities have been published to the website. Other reports were provided verbally to the meeting by Susan Jackson – Art, Michel Mezin – Chess, Caro Hartridge & Polly Fellows – Line Dancing, Ali Broder – Poetry & Social Games, Sarah Allsopp – Singing for Pleasure, Kate Teesdale – Photography.

## Any Other Business

No any other business

The evening concluded at 18.10 with refreshments and members being invited to view the board/table displays showing the activity from the previous year and the ACFAA offering.

	
Mme RILEY, Claire Présidente	Mme BRACE, Angela Secrétaire
à Eymet	à Eymet
le 21/6/26	le 21/6/26