

## A Review of 2009 AGM by Greg Farrow-Lawton

A very warm welcome was given by the staff at the venue which, considering the external conditions on the night, was much appreciated. Along with the welcome, individual orders were taken for the daily bread.

Members and guests all arrived within a short period of time and with coats and umbrellas dispatched the “networking” commenced. During this time Tony Smith conned (sorry, convinced) the assembled populous to buy his raffle tickets. In order to have any chance of winning a prize however, the surname “Smith” was a definite advantage, but credit was due to the Smith family when they had the majority of the prizes they had won re-drawn to give the rest of us a chance at winning the wonderful donations.

Initial drinks quaffed, hands shaken, cheeks pecked, smiles exchanged, bodies hugged and backs patted, it was time for ..... wait for it.... The Speeches, of course. Orators included Sheila, our Honorary President, who made special mention of Clive and John for their hard work throughout the year and invited adventurous suggestions for future Poacher events.

Clive, our Chairman, made mention of the year to come, which included, in brief, Events, Grants, Training and emphasised that the PHC is growing from strength to strength.

Angela was next in line, she never mentioned the four letter word beginning with “F” once! (Food of course) but, between thanking many people, ensured that the ballot papers for voting in the new committee members were distributed, which of course were duly completed, counted and announced.

John the Credit Crunch Cooke, presented his financial report both verbally and in black and white, for those of us too busy watching the kitchen door to take notice at the time. Interesting to notice that the mileage expenditure had shrunk to below half of that incurred the previous year since the departure of certain club members.

Then we were hit (where it was really starting to hurt) by the wenches serving up the nutritious sustenance. “Can’t beat a bit of good fodder” was heard from all corners, along with utterances such as “I wish I’d ordered the Yorkshire pud”; Can I dip my bread into your onion gravy?; can I have all the food you leave on your plate?; are these napkins edible?. All of which came from Gavin. At this point we all congratulated Sarah and Gavin on their engagement to be married.

The winners for the season were presented with their big shiny and enormous rosettes, and not forgetting the stewards of course, without whom events would be much happier for all competitors!

The film show presented by Angela and Clive was both informative and humorous and brought a very enjoyable evening to a pleasant end.

We donned our coats, picked up our umbrellas, bade our farewells and left to battle the elements of the night.

Greg Farrow Lawton