

THE HOLBROOK CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUB ON THURSDAY 14th MAY 2009 COMMENCED AT 7.00 P.M.

Those Present: Brendan Ahern, Jon Campbell, Carole Charman, Simon Charman, Don Cork, Doreen Cork, Ian Etherington, Chris Fairchild, Paul Finn, Chris Furmanski, Lorraine Heather, Brian Lewis, Sheila Lewis, Mike Manwaring, Peter Merryweather, Ian Nicoll, Linda Nicoll, Rob Pearce, Adrian Phillips, Victor Razzell, Rob Robertson, Alan Ruby, Jean Ruby, David Sattar, Brian Shaw, Michael Shelton, Brian Stevens, Graham Stevens, Dianne Sutton, Ray Sutton, Ken Willmer, Angela Wright, Barry Wright and Jill Wright. (34 eligible voting Members in all).

1. Apologies for Absence

These were received from: Paul Greenstreet, Wendy Greenstreet, Rob Jones, Peter Lake, John Maher, Paul Martin, Bernie Owen, Keith Reed, Malcolm Shore and Mike Titmus (10 in all)..

2. Minutes of Last Year's A.G.M. and E.G.M.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2008 (copies of which were distributed to Members prior to the Meeting) were accepted by those present as accurate and correct and were duly signed off by the Club Chairman, Simon Charman.

Similarly, the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2008 (copies of which were also distributed to Members prior to the Meeting) were also accepted by those present as accurate and correct and were duly signed off the Club Chairman.

3. a. General Manager's Report

The General Manager's Report (copies of which were distributed to Members prior to the Meeting) was presented by Clive Hartley.

There were no significant comments about this report.

3. b. Club Chairman's Report

The Club Chairman's Report (copies of which were distributed to Members prior to the Meeting) was presented by Simon Charman.

There was no significant comment about this report.

4. Presentation of 2008 Club Accounts

The 2008 Club Accounts (copies of which were distributed to Members prior to the Meeting) were presented by David Clark of D A Clark (the Club's auditors).

The key points from the accounts were:

- Cash at bank and in hand = £486,205
- Profit on ordinary activities before taxation = £25,552
- income had increased by 3.58% to £842,867
- increase in kitchen income by 30.71%
- increase in facilities hire income 33.73%
- costs kept under control by General Manager
- increased Club reserves
- good, sound trading year
- significant increase in rent with effect from 1st January 2009 will impact 2009 figures
- the Club was on target in 2009 against a tougher budget

5. Election of Three General Committee Non-Section Representatives

In accordance with Rule 11.2, Brendan Ahern retired from the General Committee and has offered himself for re-election. As there were no other nominations, Brendan Ahern was unanimously re-elected. Proposed by Paul Finn and seconded by Jon Campbell.

N.B. There remain two vacant Non-Section Representative positions on the General Committee for which no nominations were received. .

6. Approval of the Two General Committee Representatives who have been elected to serve on the Executive Committee

In accordance with Rule 9.1(b), Carole Charman and Brendan Ahern were elected by the General Committee to serve on the Executive Committee. There were no other nominations. The AGM approved their election.

7. Election of the Executive Committee

In accordance with Rule 9.1(a), the Club Chairman, Simon Charman, the Club Deputy Chairman, Paul Finn and the four Members' Representatives, Bernie Owen John Maher, Jon Campbell and Adrian Phillips, all retired from office and offered themselves for re-election.

All the above persons were all unanimously re-elected "en bloc". Proposed Carole Charman and seconded by Chris Furmanski.

In addition, there was one nomination for the vacant Club Treasurer position, that of Mrs Lorraine Heather (who had previously been co-opted to serve on the committee at the 2008 A.G.M.)

Her nomination was unanimously accepted by those present. Proposed by Carole Charman and seconded by Chris Furmanski

8. Appointment of Club Auditors.

The current auditors, D A Clark, were unanimously approved as the Club Auditors for the 2009 calendar year. Proposed by Simon Charman and seconded by Paul Finn

9. Presentation of the J R Holliday Cup (for outstanding service to the Club).

The J R Holliday Cup was presented to Brian Stevens for his services to the table tennis section in particular – as a player and committee member – but also as a long serving, loyal and supportive Club Member who has represented the Club at football and tennis as well as represented the table tennis section on the General Committee for many years. The Club's thanks were expressed to Brian.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 – Proposed increase to Club Membership Subscriptions from July 2009.

The proposal, to increase all £9.25 per month membership categories to be increased to £9.50 per month, and all £5.75 per month membership categories to be increased to £5.90 per month, was unanimously accepted by those present. Proposed by Dianne Sutton and seconded by Jon Campbell.

10.2 – Proposed increase to Club Plus Gym Subscriptions from July 2009

The proposal, for the £17.65 per month Peak gym charge to be increased to £18.10 per month, and for the £11.65 per month Off Peak gym charge to be increased to £11.95 per month, was unanimously accepted by those present. Proposed by Adrian Phillips and seconded by Carole Charman.

10.3.a and b. – Proposed changes to the Club Guest Rule

Proposal: Approval of the following Constitution change – Guests (Rule 16.1) – To be amended to read as per the underlined words in paragraph one: **“A Club Member aged 16 and over may introduce a maximum of two Guests at any one time and a Club Member aged 14 or 15 may introduce a maximum of one Guest at any one time...”**

Proposal: Approval of the following Constitution change – Guests (Rule 16.1) – To be amended to read as per the underline words in paragraph two: **“....and grounds. Any poor behaviour by a Guest will reflect on the Club Member and disciplinary action may be taken against the Club Member in accordance with Section 20.”**

After some general discussion, the proposal was unanimously accepted by those present. Proposed by Sheila Lewis and seconded by Brian Shaw.

10.4 – Proposed widening of the Powers of the Executive Committee

Approval of the following Constitution change – Particular Powers of the Executive Committee (Rule 9.2), Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) (Rule 12(h) and Membership Subscription Rates (Rule 15) – To be amended as detailed below:

Rule 9.2 – To add the following new power: “To implement increases to membership subscription rates and other charges as may become necessary from time to time subject to a minimum 30 day notice period”.

Rule 12 – The following paragraph to be deleted “(h) To approve the membership subscription rates and other charges proposed by the Executive Committee for the next calendar year”.

Rule 15 – The following wording under paragraph one to be deleted: “...and shall be submitted to the Club Members at General Meetings of the Club for their approval”.

A wide ranging discussion took place on this proposal and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman made the following points regarding the need for said widening of the committee’s powers:

- to enable them to react more quickly to any changes or developments in their ongoing lease negotiations with the Landlord
- to give the committee greater flexibility in implementing monetary and other changes
- to reduce the effort and cost of having to call E.G.Ms.

Whilst it was clear from the discussion that there was some concern about too much power being vested in the committee without sufficient membership control or power of veto being available, the point was also made that the Members present had faith and confidence in their newly-elected committee and should therefore trust them to exercise this additional power to the benefit of the membership as a whole.

The proposal as per the A.G.M. Notice was proposed by Brian Shaw and seconded by David Sattar. The proposal was carried by 21 votes “For” and 5 votes “Against”.

10.5 – Update on Horsham Football Club

Horsham FC (HFC) have withdrawn their Appeal and hence their plan to build their new football stadium on The Holbrook Club site is now terminated. They are apparently working with Horsham District Council (HDC) to find a new site and The Holbrook Club (THC) committee and Members wish them every success.

The committee are in discussion with HFC to extend the existing lease by a further 6 months up to 31st December 2009 (although HFC have already confirmed their intention to grant such an extension in the local paper, the West Sussex County Times). Further negotiations will be required towards the end of 2009 in respect of extending the lease into 2010 and beyond.

The short-term nature of the existing lease agreement is affecting the committee’s ability to embark on long-term capital projects such as re-surfacing the tennis courts. HFC have been

asked to indemnify the Club on a decreasing scale to protect Members' capital in respect of any capital spends the committee do decide to undertake.

A question from the floor enquired if the Club were in a position to purchase THC site should HFC decide to sell it? The committee were already exploring all financial avenues should this situation arise at some point in the future. The committee would need to engage professional help to have the site valued and to obtain an appropriate mortgage/loan. To purchase the site (obviously depending on the valuation and sale price) would most definitely be a "stretch" for the Club!

Another question asked what HDC were saying about THC site? From all the discussion the committee have had with HDC, they are committed to providing leisure services on the site. Their only interest in the site is that it is run as a recreational facility.

The statement was made from the floor that the committee should not ignore the membership as a potential source of some funds towards the purchase of the site.

10.6 Any Other Business

The question was asked if there were any plans to improve the quality of the kitchen service and offer more "healthy options"? The General Manager informed the Members that a dedicated Bar & Catering Manager (Stephen Dedman) had been recruited to review the kitchen operation and menu and improve the quality and profitability of the catering service.

A vote of thanks was expressed to the committee for their efforts on behalf of the Members during what has (and continues to be) a demanding time.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their comments and support.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed by (Club Chairman)

Dated