

THE HUNGERFORD CLUB
3 The Croft, Hungerford, RG17 0HY
Tel: 01488 682357

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 4th November 2020

President: John Conn

Trustees: Micky Lambourn and Chris Ticehurst,

Officers: None in Post

Committee

Chris Dodd (Acting AGM Chairman) Chris Scorey (Acting Treasurer)
Denis Brown (Acting Committee Chairman), Chris Hook (Communications and
Publicity), Ian Doolan, Graham Brown (Maintenance)
Jennifer Bartter (Bowls) Colin Currill (Indoor Sports)
Phillip Brown (Tennis) Alex Jinivizian (Tennis)

Members

32 Members were in attendance

1. Welcome by the Chairman

As there is no Chairman, Chris Dodd kindly agreed to act as Chairman for this AGM meeting. He welcomed and thanked all members for their attendance via the zoom application. He commented that this was certainly a most unusual form of AGM and certainly very different to what was intended. Due to the social distancing rules it had been decided to use the Croft Hall as the Club's snooker room was too small to accommodate all our members, with the option for members to attend at home via zoom. Due to the latest Government lockdown and the fact that the Trustees were contemplating closing the Croft Hall, this meeting will be held entirely by zoom. Nevertheless the Acting Chairman would like to thank all those members and non-members who have spent a good few hours at the Croft Hall setting up an operating system that would allow for some members to attend in person, being socially distanced and others to be connected by zoom .

One of the plus points of using the Croft Hall would have been an opportunity to revisit the past history of the Club which was first established in the Church House now known as the Croft Hall in 1901, known as The Church House Club for the young men of the town to meet up and play games and read newspapers. A photograph was displayed at the meeting of the main hall featuring the Rileys of Accrington billiards table purchased for 90 guineas. In 1919 the Club acquired the sports ground which comprised the bowls green and tennis courts and after failing to get approval from the Vicar to add a bar to the Church House, in 1929 the eight Trustees paid £50 each to purchase the present club house so that the members could enjoy a bar of their own which they still do today.

2.

The Acting Chairman confirmed that all the AGM papers had been sent out to the members in advance of the meeting and that the attendance by members has been registered in advance. He said that during the seven months of the lockdown the Committee had had to meet on many occasions by zoom, hosted by Philip Brown and ably chaired by Denis Brown who acted as Chairman.

Denis Brown thought it appropriate at this point of the meeting to record the retirement of the Steward Marie McConnon who has completed four and a half years of sterling work for the Club culminating in the two latest awards from CAMRA for Club of the Year in West Berkshire 2020 and Best Club of the Year in the South East Region of England 2019. These awards are on display in the club house. Marie leaves us on good terms, her retirement is due to a change in her personal circumstances and the Club will be honouring her service in due course once the lockdown has been lifted. He went on to announce that a new bar steward has been appointed, namely Deborah “Debbie” Hutchins, who will commence her duties on the 2nd December.

2. Remembrance of Members deceased

A few moments of silence were observed for members who had passed away in the last year namely: Gerry “Wally” Woodhouse, Roy Franklin, Nick Varley, Paul Hennessy, David Bellamy, Paul Peacock, Brian Tuttle, Rodger Thompson, Mick Hughes, Harold North and Richard Combes. In addition two ex-members, Mansell Morgan (former Chairman of the club) and Roy “Stan” Coe (former Club Steward)

3. Apologies for Absence

June Hiscock, Gill Venner, Vic and Wendy Lardner and Jim Wiltshire.

4. Minutes of the previous AGM

No comments have been received. Proposed by Alan Bartter and seconded by Denis Brown. The Chairman asked for a show of hands on zoom screens for acceptance which was received vote of 20 in favour and none against with no abstentions. The minutes were duly approved.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Chairman’s Report

As there is no elected Chairman there was no report as such. The Acting Chairman has already circulated a factual report headed Annual Report October 2020 and felt it unnecessary to comment further.

7. Treasurer's Report

As there is no elected Treasurer there was no report as such. The Acting Treasurer has already circulated a factual report to the members which is attached to the Hungerford Club Financial Statement and headed - Notes on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2020. He commented that the last seven months during the lockdown had not been the easiest time for the Committee and wanted to sincerely thank the members for renewing their membership after the commencement of the lockdown in March knowing that none of the Club facilities would be available for the foreseeable future. All the Bowls members renewed, the Tennis membership actually increased their membership numbers and a third of the In-Door Sports members renewed notwithstanding the bar facilities would be closed. A huge amount of work has gone into examining and reducing the running costs of the Club over the last seven months. Full advantage has been taken in obtaining the governments financial assistance including the Leisure Support Grant as well as the Job Support Scheme allowing two staff members to be furloughed. The total grant money received by the club was £17,692 up to the end of September which has helped the club finances to keep on a decent financial footing. The Club is now entering the financially lean months of the year when there is little or no income to cover running expenses – November will be completely dead. There will be a loss of a month's rent on the flat following the Steward's departure.

The detailed cashflow forecast, which is updated monthly, is based on the assumption that income will be 50% of the previous year but this may prove to be too optimistic due to the effects of the pandemic. However there are grounds for optimism for the future as the Club is solvent and has no debt and come better times, income should revert to past levels. In the meantime the Committee will apply for any grants that become available for the latest lockdown.

Fund raising efforts by the Bowls Section (£5,000) and Tennis Section (£3,276) through grants and members' donations have paid for all the necessary renewals and repairs that were due.

The Acting AGM Chairman stated that the Club's Accounts for 2019/2020 had been previously circulated to the members and needed their approval. The voting was carried out by a show of hands with 14 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

The Club's accounts were duly approved.

8. Subscriptions 2021

The Committee at their meeting on 29th October 2020 agreed that the subscriptions for annual club membership should not be increased for next year and will therefore remain unaltered for 2021.

9. Pursuance of Debtors

It was reported that a County Court Judgement in favour of the Club had expired on 20th February 2020 for the sum of £5,024. No money has been received from the Debtor, Mr Edward Hopcroft, who it is understood to have no assets or funds to pay off this sum. Any legal action would have been unlikely to lead to a successful outcome. No money has been received to date and there is no way of enforcing the debt.

10. Section Reports Bowls, Tennis and Indoor Sports

Bowls Report

A report has been previously circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes

Tennis Report

A report has been previously circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes

Indoor Sports Report

There was no report available

11. Election of Officers and Committee to 2020/2021 Committee

The following were elected unopposed.

President – Re-election: John Conn – Proposed by Chris Dodd and Seconded by Denis Brown.

Trustees – Re-election: Micky Lambourn – proposed by Chris Ticehurst and Seconded by Denis Brown. Chris Ticehurst – proposed by Micky Lambourn and Seconded by Denis Brown. There have been no nominations for the other two vacant Trustee posts.

Officers: Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. There have been no nominations for these officer posts.

Committee members: Re-election Denis Brown – Proposed by Chris Dodd and Seconded by Chris Ticehurst. Paul Ivinson – proposed by Chris Ticehurst and Seconded by Denis Brown.

The following having served their two year term will not be seeking re-election: Chris Hook and Ian Doolan

Bowls, Tennis and Indoor Sports Sections will nominate their representatives on the Committee in due course.

12. Any Other Business

There were no other matters.