



CBSC – EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING – 18:00 Thursday, 11 February 2021
(held using ZOOM)

MINUTES

Attendees & Apologies: Please see list at the end of the minutes.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION – Michael Trippick

Michael welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He outlined the purpose of this EGM and referred to the operational procedures that were circulated before the meeting that will help it run smoothly.

During the AGM held in February 2019, our plans for building on the great start that had been made since opening were discussed but, sadly these plans and good intentions were thwarted by COVID-19. We are hoping to hold our second AGM in July this year, in person.

ACCOUNTS – Graham Withers

A copy of the final accounts for 2019-20 were sent to current members with the invitation to this meeting. Members were asked to submit questions before the meeting if more explanation was required but none were received. Graham did, however, think it was useful to highlight a few points:

- Surplus = £8200, including £500 unspent grant money, leaving an effective surplus of £7700.
- Income from subscriptions = £21800.
- Income from bar, events and catering = £15000.

Clearly, the income for the current year (2020-21) will be less than the previous year, although this reduction cannot all be assigned to the impact of COVID-19. Income from subscriptions was expected to be lower as some of the 250 members who joined initially never came to bowl. In addition, because of COVID-19, our Club closed on 17 March 2020 for what turned out to be the first period of lockdown. This was before our renewal process was complete so may have made some members decide not to re-join.

There hasn't been any income from Catering & Entertainment but we have incurred significant, unexpected COVID-19 related expenses. These were necessary expenses that enabled us to open for bowling during the weeks in between lockdowns. These expenses will continue for an unspecified time.

- Income from Subscriptions 2020-21 = £11800
- Income from selling drinks (before their sell by date) = £350
- Expenses for COVID-specific items (to date) = £4000

The adverse impact of these figures (£22000) on the current state of our finances would be catastrophic if it hadn't been for the considerable work and effort put in by Teresa Attlee. She has successfully applied for many grants, mainly from HMG and Sport England, totalling £12000 that we can allocate towards our running costs. These are in addition to the other grants she has obtained for improvements to the facilities, such as the new shed.

Also, adding to our finances has been an income of c£2000 from members' support through EHDC Lottery, easyfundraising and AmazonSmile.

Taking these factors into account, together with careful cost management, we are hoping to end the year with a small surplus.



As we are unlikely to be able to hold events or catering in the Pavilion for the foreseeable future, we are planning to invest some of this in making our outside space more useable. Planning permission permitting, we will widen the walkway along the front of the Pavilion, install a small, retractable awning and provide outdoor furniture to create an area where members can relax and enjoy a drink or shelter from the rain! These enhancements will help to future proof us with some added income from our bowls competitions.

We will carry forward any remaining funds to next year when, again, we will be facing uncertain times.

Graham finished by thanking Glenda Smith for all her help and hard work in producing such excellent accounts. He also recorded his thanks to Nigel Barnfield for kindly examining the 2019-20 accounts.

Question

How many current members do we have?

Answer

Not including young family members, we have 10 Sports, 88 Full and 13 Winter members giving a total of 111 compared with a total of about 250 last year.

If anyone has further questions/points that have not been covered please send them to Geeti.

RULE AMENDMENTS – Graham Withers

Graham explained the rationale for the rule changes before asking members to vote. The full details of these changes are:

1. In the third line of Rule 2.1 delete the words "and approved by the AGM".

At the AGM last year some members were unhappy that the accounts related to a year that had ended nearly 10 months earlier and asked that the AGM be held in summer nearer to the year end. However, the Rules require each year's subscription rates to be approved by the AGM, so moving this meeting to July would mean subscription rates for the following year would have to be set 3 or 4 months into the year with no clear idea of how the finances would look at the year end.

The AGM agreed, in principle, that, in order to be able to move the AGM so that more up-to-date accounts could be presented, it was happy to remove the need for subscription rates to be approved by the AGM. This amendment makes that change.

2. In addition to the amendment in 2.1 the Rules have been updated cosmetically to make the numbering consistent and to correct typos and remove redundant words.

The original Rules were put together at short notice in amongst the many other tasks that arose from the opening of the Club. They were based on another Bowls Club's rules but with original tweaks and the odd rule borrowed from other Club's rules. As a result, there were some inconsistencies in format and numbering, some typos and some redundant clauses and/or words. Geeti has invested a lot of time and effort tidying them up including introducing a new landscape format. The new draft can be found on the website and will become the official rules once the EGM has approved them (See link in Other Information frame).

The only substantive changes relate to the change to the timing of the AGM (Point 1) and are:

2.1 In rule 6.1 (now 5.11.1 in the revised rules) the requirement to have nomination forms on display in the Pavilion has been amended by deleting the words "from the last week in January annually" so it now reads:



Any two members of CBSC may nominate candidates for any position shown on the nomination sheets that will be on display in the Pavilion; providing that the nominee signs to indicate his/her willingness to stand for office.

2.2 In Rule 14 (last paragraph) (now 13.5 in the revised rules) the words “after 31st December annually” have been deleted so it now reads:

The Accounts Examiners are responsible for checking CBSC’s accounts as soon as possible after they are completed. Accounts Examiners must not be Management Committee members.

Graham thanked Geeti for her work in merging the separate files that formed the previous version of the rules and applying a consistent style to the resulting document.

Results of Voting

All amendments were approved unanimously.

AOB – Michael Trippick & Graham Withers

Michael invited questions and comments from members that he and Graham answered.

Question

Would you introduce a Summer Membership, April to October?

Answer

Michael replied this question has been raised before at the AGM when a number of members felt very strongly that it would not be beneficial overall. It was thought it might fragment the membership to accommodate other activities/commitments that individual members might have. Also, it was learned from research carried out before opening the Club, that no other local clubs with an all-weather surface offered this type of membership at that time.

Michael’s personal view is that, at the moment we are in a very delicate position of approaching the renewal of normal memberships so this is not a good time to add new membership types. We want to acknowledge the loyalty shown by our current members who continued to support the Club by renewing at a time when the scope of facilities that will be available is a complete unknown. Graham added that, at the next Management Committee meeting, we will be discussing membership and next year’s subscription fees, including this point. However, even if it is thought to be a good idea, it’s unlikely to be one that can be implemented in time for the renewal process.

Additional Comments

1. Peter Lake suggested the cost of summer membership could be much the same as an annual membership fee because it is during the summer months that most value is derived.

Question

Do we understand that those who subscribed last year will get an incentive to subscribe this year?

Answer

Graham said we are very conscious that members didn’t get full value for money last year due to the circumstances. There are 25 full members who haven’t attend the Club at all during the year. We always said that, if our finances permitted it, we would look at what we could do to thank members for their ongoing support and loyalty. He stressed, however, that the amounts cannot be treated as proportionate compensation as this would be too big a hit on the Club finances. It is unlikely that we will give refunds because that involves too much complex administration.

Again, at the next Management Committee meeting, we will be looking at how, for current members, who renew and pay by 31 March 2021, in any capacity, we can best acknowledge their ongoing loyalty during another uncertain year.



Additional Comments

1. Diana Pickford said she appreciates all that was done last year to keep this Club going. She said members want the Club to survive as it means so much to the local Community. She said we need our leisure back and wants to support it financially. She would be happy to pay a full subscription.
2. Gill Clements offered a big thank you to Teresa Attlee (for grants obtained), the Committee and all the Volunteers for keeping the Club safe and ready to go. Gill echoed Diana's comments about subscriptions and said it was good value for money at only £2.50 per week with so much on offer in a privileged setting.
3. Marilyn and David Charleton said they totally agreed with Diana's comment.
4. Rick Assad acknowledged the reduced membership fee would be nice but not really necessary as it will reduce the revenue. Perhaps it could be up to each member to decide whether to accept the reduced rate as we are happy to pay the full rate.
5. Mike Smith asked for this meeting to recognise the vital and valuable contribution all our Volunteers make to ensure our Club runs smoothly and offers the best it can to all its members.
6. Caroline and Ivor Cahill thanked everyone who has helped to keep the Club going this year in difficult circumstances.

Several other members agreed with the comments made by using the reaction symbols in Zoom.

Michael thanked members for their positive, supportive comments which are very much appreciated. We are a charity so are not a profit-making organisation but we believe we offer value for money and provide a valuable facility to the village. We all benefit from the time and effort the Volunteers devote to the Club – after all, it is what we make it.

Graham thanked those members who, despite any discounted fee that may be offered, are happy to pay the full amount. He went on to say there is now an opportunity on the renewal form for members to make a donation and, if they are taxpayers, we can claim Gift Aid which will increase the value of their donation.

After all questions were answered the meeting closed at 18:45.



ATTENDEES & APOLOGIES

Attendees

Trustees & Committee Members

Trustee and Chairman & Club Secretary	Michael Trippick
Trustee and Finance & Legal	Graham Withers
Trustee and Funding & External Communications	Teresa Attlee
Facilities, Health & Safety	Karen Eaton
Catering & Entertainment	Helen Glover
Membership, Bookings & Website	Geeti Granger
Treasurer	Glenda Smith
Rota	Mike Smith

Members

Rick Assad	Gill Clement	Keith Lambert
Caroline Cahill	Clive Dawson	Diana Pickford
Ivor Cahill	Mike Eaton	Mike Richardson
Carol Carter	Anne Humphries	Ann Roche
Barry Carter	Phill Humphries	Sue Restell
Marilyn Charleton	Peter Lake	David Restell
David Charleton	Jean Lambert	

Apologies

Trustees & Committee Members

Bowls & Other Sports	Nuala Atkey
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Members

Nigel Copcutt
Tom Costello
Mike Jones
Wendy Peters