

## **Horsmonden Social Club**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting: Friday 31 July 2021, 2000**

#### **Present**

Lindsey Chave (Chair), Chris Reed (Secretary), Ann Coyne (Treasurer), Sidney Cornish, David Watson, Richard Norman, Bridgette Walsh, Phoebe Walsh, Lawrence Arscott, Richard Edmed, David Jolley, CJ Couchman, John Ridley, Darren Norman, Nick Belton, Melanie Phelps, John Sheckles, Pete Sands, Pauline Bell, Dave Bell, Janet Norton, Bob Norton, Anne Rice, Paul Fleury, Ray Wood, Dave Turnbull, K Biscoe, Nigel Thorpe, Mel Greener, Tim Coyne, Mr & Mrs Joyce, Jan Botten, Greg Aitken

#### **Apologies for absence**

Billie Edmonds-Bell, Alison Scott, Ian Read

#### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and asked if those present could observe a minutes silence in memory of those members who had passed away since the last AGM, especially Ewen Kellas, Pauline Ridley, Jenny Lethem, Tony Styles, Mr Heasman and Mr Beale.

#### **Minutes of the last meeting (held on 28 February 2020)**

The minutes were approved with amendment to type on page 1, Chair's report, para 4 ('luv' to be replace by 'Club').

*Proposed by: Jan Botten*

*Seconded by: Pete Sands*

#### **Chair's report**

Our Chair (Lindsey Chave) reflected on the last 16 months, after getting the news that the country was going into a lockdown we turned everything off and closed the door not knowing how long we would be closed for. The committee decided to make good use of the time and get our cellar floor done, at the same time David Walsh and family gave the club a facelift painting all woodwork and walls. Ray Wood made us a new stage getting rid of the partition wall and extending it doing a fantastic job. New lighting has also been installed to make the whole place look warm and inviting.

Lindsey offered her thanks to those involved in renovating the Club.

As the Club's activities moved online we joined zoom to keep people connected and had some great evenings -Bingo - quiz nights

The Club was very lucky, thanks to Chris Reed in securing a few grants this has helped us out with the beer that had to be thrown away, out of date stock etc but most of all improvements we have made to the club. New tall tables and chairs were installed after the first lockdown as they took up less space and meant members could be kept at a safe social distance. These have been found to be very popular and can expect to see a couple more appear in the future!!

With the gradual reopening of the Club we hosted some of the rugby 6 Nations, a great opportunity to see the club come alive again, but this was short lived little did we know that we would be closing our doors yet again and this time it seemed to go on forever. The dark

cold nights and not seeing family and friends over Christmas were devastating, so again zoom was one of our only ways of keeping members connected. Despite this we had a beer and wine tasting evening which was free to members and thanks to David, Billie and the rest of the volunteers who delivered to your doors.

New Year's Eve was also on zoom with lots of great games, quizzes and just real good fun. Lindsey offered her thanks to all the committee members involved in setting this up.

After many long winter nights, we could see a small light at the end of the tunnel when we could reopen, but outside we decided it was a good time to make use of some of Kell's Memorial Fund and ordered new tables for our forecourt, made of heavy duty recycled plastic easy to keep clean and sanitized. Despite the weather we made the most of it and had some great fun Saturday evenings even when we had to sit under umbrellas but was nice to just see members who we had missed.

As things eased and we were allowed back inside the weather got better and we found most enjoyed sitting outside looking out at our fantastic green. Then came the euros and we watched as England got through each round and then came the final what a treat to hear our members singing the national anthem before the game. Lindsey reflected that we might not have won we should be very proud of our footballers, just as was of all our volunteers that have worked so hard in a very difficult time.

Lindsey concluded with the great success that was our beer festival, enjoyed by most of the village it would seem. The entertainment made it this year and thanks to Pat Kellas for opening it,

But most of all huge thankyou to David Watson , nick Belton and Richard for all their hard work

In putting it together these events are very hard work but very rewarding.

Lindsey then offered thanks to:

- Chris Reed for all his involvement in sorting out the covid risk assessments and posters
- Billie and Scuppet for the great newsletters they put together between them
- Nick Belton, David Watson and Simon Jupp for all the cellar work they have done
- Anne Coyne, our treasurer who has also been doing our cleaning, buying our drink and working many shifts behind the bar
- Paul Fluery for doing our bar shift rotas
- Catherine Catchpole for doing our accounts

And to the rest of the bar volunteers and committee members for all their hard work over the last year and finally to all the members for being patient and respectful to the bar volunteers and servers in what has been a very trying time.

*Proposed by: Nigel Thorpe*

*Seconded by: Nick Belton*

### **Secretary's report**

Chris Reed (Secretary) introduced his report, reflecting that as late as March 2020 the committee were reflecting on event plan for later in the month, bookings were still being considered but from then on his role changed significantly.

From March 2020 the Secretary role become focused almost exclusively on completing Covid risk assessments, producing and updating guidance for volunteers, member and putting up posters



advertising restrictions to how members could use the Club. By July a covid-safe trial re-opening took place and gradual reopening has been happening ever since.

Groups are now being supported to return to book and use the Club safely (still with increased cleaning and sanitizing).

Our licenses, alcohol, music etc have all been maintained appropriately and over £12,000 in government covid grants were secured as a result of the applications submitted by the secretary to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, ensuring the Club was able to break even in 2020.

2020 was a year in which the Secretary felt he spent more time saying no to proposals from other committee members due to covid-safe requirements. As a result of the volume of this work and changes in personal circumstances the Secretary has handed over responsibility for some work to other members of the committee and particularly thanked:

- Lawrence Arscott for taking on the website and Parish News articles
- Bridgette Walsh, John Ridley and Nick Belton for taking on Facebook

*Proposed by: Bridgette Walsh*

*Seconded by: Paul Fluery*

### **Treasurer's report (accounts)**

Chris Reed (Secretary) presented the accounts on behalf of the Committee, acknowledging the work of Ann Coyne (Treasurer) and Catherine Catchpole who prepares the Club accounts each year. Chris also acknowledged that the accounts were for the 2020 Club Financial Year, but due to the Covid pandemic the AGM was postponed and hence they were being presented later than normal.

Chris drew members attention to a number of key points in the accounts:

- Bar sales were significantly down on last year reflecting the time the Club had to close due to National and local Lockdown restrictions
- % profit down to 29%, reflecting lockdowns and stock that had to be disposed of due to dates
- These losses were offset by the £12,096 of government grants the Club was able to secure during the pandemic
- Further grants have been secured which will feature in the 2021 accounts
- Membership was up on 2019, however the Committee agreed previously to waive membership renewal fees for 2020/21 reflecting members inability to use the Club during lockdowns
- This will therefore show as a reduction in the 2021 accounts in due course
- Membership renewals would recommence at the end of 2021 for 2022
- Chris credited David Watson for securing a reduction in insurance costs given the lengthy period that Club activities ceased in 2020
- Licensing costs were also lower, reflecting the Club's limited ability to open
- As a result of the government grants the Committee invested in a number of refurbishment activities, which are broken down on page 2 of the accounts
  - Chris gave special mention to Dave Walsh, John Brett and Ray Wood for the excellent work they have done throughout the Club
- Despite reduced income, as a result of the grants and diligent financial management the Club ended the year with a surplus of £460
- Chris reflected on the reduced Bar stock now being carried, reflecting a desire to keep losses associated with lockdowns to a minimum
- Significantly reduced donations to groups in 2020 reflecting that many were unable to operate. Chris encouraged members to remind groups of the Ewen Kellas Memorial Fund, to which groups can apply for financial support using the form on the Club website

End of year position: £67,105 in the bank, compared to £66,645 the previous year.

Chris invited questions on the accounts from the membership. No questions were posed.

Chris thanked Ann and Catherine once again.

*Proposed by: Pete Sands*

*Seconded by: Richard Edmed*

### **Election of the Club Committee**

Existing members of the Committee stepping down: Bill Payne, after 4 years, Billie Edmonds-Bell after a second term of 2 years and Alison Scott after 3 years.

The Secretary offered a huge thank you to all of them for their significant contribution to the Club.

The Secretary explained that the Committee requires a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16, including the Officers and Trustees, but excluding the President and 16 nominations had been received, therefore as with previous years a secret ballot is not required, unless there are any objections from members - no objections were received.

The Secretary informed members:

1. Existing members of the Committee willing to stand again as officers/ Trustees (four Trustees are required as per the terms of the Club's Trust Deed): Lindsey Chave (Chair), Ann Coyne (Treasurer), Chris Reed (Secretary) and Nick Belton (Trustee)

*Proposed by: Pete Sands*

*Seconded by: John Sheckles*

2. Existing members of the committee willing to stand again: Richard Edmed, Paul Fleury, David Watson, Janice Botten, Lawrence Arscott, Pat Kellas, Bridgette Walsh, John Ridley and Ian Read
3. Members nominated to join the committee this year: Nick Miller & Sidney Cornish

*Proposed by: Nigel Thorpe*

*Seconded by: Ray Wood*

### **Any other business**

The Secretary invited members present to raise any other business, advising that no items were raised in advance.

- A vote of thanks was proposed by members for Officers and Committee (Tim Coyne)
- The Chair offered thanks to the Secretary for his work behind the scenes and for pulling the AGM together

The Chair closed the meeting with a final round of thanks for the Committee and other volunteers and members for their continued support over the past difficult year.

*The meeting was then closed.*