

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Remenham Club Ltd.,  
held via Zoom video conference on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020, at 11.45am.**

**Present:** Mr J E C Steel (President), Vice-Presidents: Messrs R J Hurles, M J S Levy (Chairman), G J E Lewis, D G Shove, and R Welch. Committee Members: Mr M Cannon, Mr P A Francis (Hon Secretary), Ms C Harvey, Mr J D Higgs, Mrs G Medcalf, Mr S Molloy, Mr M Ormiston, Ms J Osborne, Mr M Parrish (Hon Treasurer) and Mr R Stanley.

12 other members were also present

**Apologies** None received.

**Welcome** – the President welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

**1. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

It was proposed by Mr D Biddulph and seconded by Mr D Shove that these be taken as read, confirmed and signed: this was agreed *nem con*.

**2. Reception and adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, and reports of the Directors thereon**

Mr Parrish presented the accounts, noting a slight surplus on the previous year.

No questions were received from any of the participants on the call as to these accounts. Mr A Zarach proposed and Mr R Welch seconded the adoption of the accounts; this was carried *nem con*.

**3. To review and agree a proposed rule change to allow for the creation of the role of “Past President”**

Mr Levy noted that our incumbent President had previously indicated his intention to stand down at this AGM after 20 years of service. As the Club had never had a President step down from office (all previous incumbents having died in office) there was no precedent for this and no position for the President to step down into.

Mr Francis reminded the meeting of the proposed wording which would define the new position in the rules and which had been sent to the Membership in the notice of the AGM.

Mr Higgs raised a concern that this had not been formally discussed at the Committee and Mr Lewis responded that he felt that this was seen as a minor change to a cosmetic label. Mr Higgs noted that it wasn't so much the change itself but the process it had gone through. Mr Francis noted Mr Higgs concern.

Ms J Fearnside proposed and Mr D G Shove seconded this rule change and the election of Mr J E C Steel into the new role; this was carried by a majority with one objection from Mr R Steed (M)

**4. Election of officers**

- **President** – Mr Levy took the Chair for this item and noted that Mr G J E Lewis had indicated a willingness to stand now that the previous incumbent had stood down. Mr M J S Levy proposed and Mr J E C Steel seconded and Mr G J E Lewis's election was agreed *nem con*
- Mr Lewis adopted the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

- **Emeritus Vice-President and Vice-Presidents** – The Committee had nominated Messrs R G Higgins and P R Jennings as Emeritus Vice-Presidents of the Club. These were proposed by Mr J Higgs and were seconded by Mr R Welch and were agreed *nem con*.

In addition, The Committee had nominated Messrs C H E Fox, R J Hurles, M J S Levy, R C Scott, D G Shove, R Welch and Mrs L J Malhi as Vice-Presidents of the Club. These were proposed by Mrs G Medcalf and seconded by Mr M Cannon and were agreed *nem con*.

- **Officers** – Mr Mike Parrish had kindly agreed to stand again for the office of Honorary Treasurer and Mr Paul Francis had agreed to continue in the role of Honorary Secretary: Ms J Fearnside proposed and Mr J E C Steel seconded their election and the meeting agreed this *nem con*.
- **Committee members** – Mr Lewis asked that the meeting accept the election of The Committee *en bloc*, this was agreed and The Committee was proposed by Mr G J E Lewis and seconded by Mr J E C Steel. This was passed *nem con*.

The Committee members would therefore comprise: Mr M Cannon (V), Mr I Cowell (L), Ms L Dunlop (K), Mr J Gray (L), Ms C. Harvey (Th), Mr P Harvey (S), Mr J D Higgs (M), Mr J C Keech (M), Ms G R Medcalf (S), Mr S Molloy (K), Mr M Ormiston (Tw), Ms J Osborne (V), Mr W Pressley (Th) and Mr R Stanley (Tw).

## 5. Any Other Business

- Mr J Wishart observed that these were unheralded times and that things had changed due to the pandemic and may remain changed forever. Membership across British Rowing was down and their accounts showed a deficit. Remenham is a country club and is sitting on a “gold mine” which we’re not using.

MBC is making a lot of money from offering a cafe service and Remenham Club sits in a similar position in that it is on a towpath by the river. Mr Wishart felt that we we should look to open a similar cafe service and see if we can make any money from it.

Mr Lewis replied that we would look into this and would discuss at the Committee. However, Mr Lewis noted that there were constraints on us due to the nature of the club and its foundations.

Mr R Stanley felt this was a helpful suggestion and had been intending to propose that the Committee look at something in this space for the Summer of 2021.

Mr Wishart re-iterated that he had seen Leander making efforts to increase their offering in this space and he felt Remenham Club could benefit from doing so too.

Mr Shove observed that the position of Remenham Club was difficult in a number of ways, noting the presence of our existing on-site staff and the constraints of existing leases of the clubhouse and grounds over the summer which might inhibit our ability to create and run an offering.

Mr Higgs asked what level of foot fall Mr Wishart anticipated we might see and noted that while the weekends were felt to be busy with dog walkers and joggers during the week the towpath was generally quiet. Mr Wishart observed that the

increase in people opting to take 'staycations' during the pandemic might change this.

Mr Lewis observed that we would have to look at the covenants we operated under and whether the parish council might object. We would also have to be mindful of the wear and tear this might cause the club.

Mr Shove suggested the Committee take this away and discuss and Mr Wishart asked that the MBC reps be sought to discuss the current cafe arrangements within MBC and seek insight as to how they had made that successful. Mr Higgs reported on the perceived popularity and success of the MBC offering and Mr Lewis responded that if we did look to do this it would probably have to be as a franchise type affair which would impact on possible profits.

Mr A G Bingham noted that Marlow offered a successful cafe but they were lucky in their location with regard to other local amenities.

After some further discussion it was agreed that the Committee would look into this and decide whether to progress.

- Mr R Stanley provided an update from Mr R Scott who has been ill and who sends his best wishes.
- Mr M J S Levy reported on the progress of the catering tender with bids due for return by the end of October and a supplier to be selected shortly after.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:33pm, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.