

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYSTON BOWLING CLUB
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE, SYSTON, ON
MONDAY 22ND MARCH 2010 STARTING AT 7.00 P.M.**

Present: *Margaret Abbott* - Director
 Roger Bentley - Director
 Chris Biddles – Director
 Marjorie Clowes – Director
 George Dodge - Director
 Colin Grimes – Chairman
 Anita Lowder – Director
 Rolf Meyer - Director
 Pete Murray - Director

together with 49 voting Members

In attendance: *Adam Longley*, Auditor

Apologies for absence were recorded from *Arthur Calver, Mick Hall, Gary Jones, Diana Lewis, Brian Pinnock, Hazel Rayns, Len Smith, Aideen Talbot, Joe Toole, Barbara Wheatley, Janice Wilbourn and Rob Wilbourn*

AGM10.01 IN MEMORIAM

The Chairman led a silent tribute to *Edgar Walden*, Member, who had died since the previous AGM.

AGM10.02 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chairman, *Colin Grimes*, presented the report of the Board of Directors for the Year ended 31st December, 2009. (*Copy filed in Minute Book*). In the absence of any questions, the Report was **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**.

AGM10.03 ACCOUNTS

Adam Longley presented an overview of the Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet for the 11 months accounting period ended 31st December 2009. (*Copy filed in the Minute Book*). He explained that although the Club had operated at a (*budgeted*) loss in the year, the Club's underlying financial position remained healthy. The operational deficit was almost exclusively linked to a significant fall in Bar revenues.

Club Chairman, *Colin Grimes* apologised for any problem which might have been created as a result of the extended vacancy in the role of Treasurer which had led to a delay in the Board's recognition of the slump in Bar sales and delayed corrective action.

He drew attention to the broad picture presented by the accounts which showed that, in spite of the overspend, the Club had still started the 2010 year with a accumulated cash surplus of approximately £4500. The budget for the year 2010, which included significant additional expenditure on the maintenance of the green, indicated a further likely deficit of close to £2000 – *always provided* that the membership approved the proposed increase in membership subscriptions, membership numbers remained stable and Bar revenues did not drop further. He assured Members that in the current year, the Board would minimise expenditure, maximise income, keep the financial position under close scrutiny and would endeavour to find new sources of revenue for the Club to avoid the need for future significant increases in subscriptions.

In answer to questions, he confirmed that further cuts had been made to the allocation for advertising and publicity but warned that further increases in Bar prices might prove necessary depending on Government decisions on VAT and any rises in supplier prices.

Following brief discussion, the Annual Audited Accounts were **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED**.

AGM10.04 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Chairman explained that while the Board enjoyed full authority, under the terms of the Articles of Association, to set membership fees, it had to be recognised that all actions and decisions of the Board were subject to challenge by the membership in General Meeting. Since the proposed increase in membership subscriptions in the current year was so significant, it had been agreed that the Board should invite full discussion among the membership before reaching a final decision.

In the absence of any questions or discussion, the meeting **UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED** the decision of the Board to increase membership subscriptions to £80 with immediate effect.

The Chairman thanked the membership for their exemplary support and reminded everyone that subscriptions could be paid in two equal instalments of £40.

AGM10.05 ACCOUNTING YEAR

The meeting **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** the proposed change in the accounting year to 31st December.

AGM10.06 ELECTION OF AUDITORS

The re-appointment of Adam Longley Accountants Limited as Auditors for the year ending 31st December 2010, at rates to be agreed by the Board, was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** and thanks were offered for their work during 2009.

AGM10.07 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The meeting formally **CONFIRMED** the election, *en bloc*, of the 6 nominees for the posts of Director whose nominations had been received by the published closing date, to serve for a period of one year to the close of the next Annual General Meeting, as follows:

Chairman: **Colin Grimes**; Green Ranger: **Roger Bentley**; Premises Director: **George Dodge**; Social Programme Director: **Anita Lowder**; Finance Director: **Rolf Meyer**; Bar Director: **Pete Murray**,..

Nominations were then invited from the floor for candidates from the Ladies' Section to fill the remaining posts. The meeting then **ENDORSED** the appointment of the following: Administrative Director: **Margaret Abbott**; Regulatory Compliance Director: **Chris Biddles**; Facilities Director: **Marjorie Clowes**;

The Chairman congratulated all those appointed and thanked the membership for their vote of confidence in the Board.

AGM10.08 OPEN FORUM

Members were invited to raise any matter of interest or concern to assist the Board of Directors in ensuring that they were responsive to the needs and interests of the full membership.

(a) **Social programme** – Members were invited to pass any suggestions for attractive social activities which might generate more activity in the Clubhouse to **Anita Lowder**. **Kate Toon** gave assurances to any Member who might be

dissuaded from attending an evening function that transport to and from the Clubhouse could be easily arranged.

- (b) **49 Club – Doreen Payne** suggested that the weekly prize in the **49 Club** might be reduced to, say, £25 as a way of increasing Club income. The Chairman undertook to consult those members directly involved about the suggestion.
- (c) A suggestion from **Gordon Pell** that the frequency of coffee mornings might be increased to twice a month found little support. It was felt desirable to extend the range of social activities to attract a wider range of membership support to avoid the situation where the same “hard core” of “socially active” Members were caused to contribute more and more towards Club revenues.
- (d) In response to a proposal by **Dave Anderton**, the Chairman assured the membership that the Board would, in future, actively consider annual incremental/inflationary increases in membership subscriptions in order to avoid the possibility of further significant and sudden increase as had happened in the current year.
- (e) **Eric Hall** urged the Board to put pressure on the Council to permit parking on Central Park on match days. Speaking in his dual capacity as Town Councillor and Club Director, **Pete Murray**, confirmed that every effort had been made, especially during recent negotiations with the Council, to gain approval for limited car parking for the Club. However, he explained that no change in Council policy on parking was possible since special laws relating to village greens applied to the park and that, in consequence, vehicular access had to be severely restricted.
- (f) The view expressed by **Roy Hill** that the Board were to be congratulated for the way in which they had managed such difficult issues as the significant rise in membership subscriptions and other problems facing the Club was warmly endorsed by the meeting.
- (g) Following the appointment of Directors to specific areas of responsibility (*portfolios*), the Chairman undertook to post an appropriately annotated notice enabling Members to identify who they should approach with any problems, concerns or suggestions throughout the year ahead.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their enthusiastic support for the Club and expressed the hope that the Club would enjoy a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

The meeting was then formally closed at closed at **7.55 p.m.**