

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYSTON BOWLING CLUB  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE, SYSTON, ON  
MONDAY 17TH MARCH 2014 STARTING AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Present:**

*Roger Bentley* - Director  
*Marjorie Clowes* - Director  
*George Dodge* - Director  
*Val Foreman* - Director  
*Colin Grimes* – Chairman  
*Anita Lowder* – Director  
*Rolf Meyer* – Director  
*Pete Murray* - Director  
*Kate Toon* - Director

Together with **40** voting Members and *Adam Longley*, auditor

**Apologies for absence** were recorded from *Margaret Abbott, Sheila Aindow, Gillian Allen, Trevor Allen, John Clarke, Allan Disney, Sue Disney, Des Eggitt, Carole Eshelby, Roger Eshelby, Gary Jones, Hazel Rayns and John Woodward.*

**AGM14.01 IN MEMORIAM**

The Chairman led a silent tribute to *Gordon Pell, Dot Roberts, Joan Sikes and Alan Stafford*, former Members, who had died since the previous AGM.

**AGM14.02 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Chairman, *Colin Grimes*, presented the report of the Board of Directors for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013. (*Copy filed in Minute Book*). In the absence of any questions, proposed by *Rob Wilbourn*, seconded by *Roy Hill*, the report was **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.**

**AGM14.03 ACCOUNTS**

*Adam Longley* presented an overview of the Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. (*Copy filed in the Minute Book*).

Proposed by *Stan Page* and seconded by *Gary Kilbourne*, the Annual Audited Accounts were **UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.**

**AGM14.04 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

The re-appointment of Adam Longley Accountants Limited as Auditors for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, proposed by *Colin Wilkinson* and seconded by *Jean Ward* was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** and thanks were offered for their work during 2013.

*Adam* has agreed to be a Patron of the club and so will not be charging for his company's services in this financial year.

**AGM14.05 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Sadly, *Kate* has resigned as Regulatory Compliance Director; *Colin* expressed the Board's thanks to her, saying we owe her a great debt of gratitude for her work over the last two years. *Kate* replied thanking everybody for their support.

*Pauline*, a very dedicated member, has volunteered to be Social Programme Director, and we have agreed that *Anita* will now take over as Regulatory Compliance Director.

The meeting formally **CONFIRMED** the election of the 9 nominees for the posts of Director to serve for a period of one year to the close of the next Annual General Meeting, as follows:

Chairman: **Colin Grimes**; Administrative Director: **Val Foreman**; Finance Director: **Rolf Meyer**; Bar Director: **Pete Murray**; Green Ranger: **Roger Bentley**; Premises Director: **George Dodge**; Social Programme Director: **Pauline Wright**; Facilities Director: **Marjorie Clowes**; Regulatory Compliance Director: **Anita Lowder**.

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

#### **AGM14.06 OPEN FORUM**

- a) In response to a question from **Rolf Meyer, Colin** confirmed that the Board's recommendation for the coming year's annual subscriptions had been accepted.
- b) **Rod Heggs** queried whether there had been any further progress regarding the pollarding of the trees. **Roger** replied that nothing had yet been heard from the council.
- c) **Doreen Payne** asked about the flooding from the pipe next to the foot path. **Colin** replied that the council had been notified but, as the problem had not been dealt with, a letter of complaint from the club had also been sent to the council. So far, no response had been received.
- d) **Kate Williams** announced that, as a progressive move, the committees of both sections have agreed to have joint fixture cards. Hopefully it will apply from 2015 onwards. This was accepted.
- e) **Rod Heggs** commented on the ramp and asked if there had been any reaction from the Syston Town Council. **Colin** replied that, as STC had been overruled by Charnwood Council, the issue seemed to be out of its hands. He also said it was a great tribute to **George's** persistence that the project had been successfully completed.
- f) **Mike Foster** thanked the club for the ramp; he is now able to ride straight into the clubhouse and get to the bar more quickly!
- g) **Roy Hill** asked if there were further developments about having a joint flag. **Colin** was not able to report any progress but hoped it would happen in the future.
- h) **Kate Toon** reminded members entering club competitions that they must adhere to the completion dates and urged members to play games early whenever possible. **Gary**, the men's section competition secretary, fully supported this.
- i) **Colin** gave information on some points about the extension. He explained the need to provide Sport England with evidence that the effect of the extension led to more people visiting the club. He had estimated that there were approx. 1700 visits last year and some documentary proof was required to show an increase each year for the next five years. Therefore, a form, a copy of which was given to everyone at the meeting, had been drafted and would be kept in the clubhouse for completion by team captains and individual members, as appropriate, to record

numbers. *Colin* hoped this would be acceptable and that everyone involved would be careful to follow the procedure.

- j) *George Stone* asked whether there would be any penalty if the club did not comply with this condition of the grant. *Colin* replied that whilst he did not foresee any direct consequences, non-compliance might make it more difficult to obtain further grants in the future from Sport England. So it was important to make every effort in this matter, and the meeting approved the use of the form recommended by the Board.
- k) *Colin* showed the meeting a drawing of two plaques, which it is intended to place in the extension. One will record details of the formal opening and the other will show details of donations made through the buy a brick scheme. With regard to the latter, *Rolf* pointed out that, although the extension was a very favourable development for the club, financial resources were limited and more support by donations was essential before the end of April. To date, only a third of the membership had responded to the funding appeal, and it would not be possible to meet any shortfall with a bank overdraft. This could make it necessary to call on the men's section for the loan it had promised to cover a potential hole in the finances.
- l) Concerning finances generally, *Rolf* mentioned the hiring of the clubhouse and said that the increased charge may need to be reconsidered, because it seemed to have caused a decline in bookings. He wanted to reverse this, although he emphasised that the needs of members should be the first consideration and it was important to be cautious when accepting a hiring, ensuring the full approval of the Board was always obtained.
- m) In connection with the future health of the club, *Colin* drew attention to the desirability of having a youth programme to bring younger people into the club. He had explained his ideas about the possibility in the latest edition of the Syston Green and hoped someone, or several members, would come forward to start such an initiative.
- n) *Colin* then invited *George* to give an update on progress with the extension. *George* said the roof trusses would be in place tomorrow, he expected work on tiling the roof by *Miles Clare's* brother would start on Thursday and also the door will be put on shortly, so that the builders can knock through into the main clubhouse. He and *Colin Smith* will be doing the plumbing work, and help will be needed for the decorating and cleaning. He thinks all will be completed by the end of April, or by mid-May at the latest.
- o) *George* mentioned that the issue of storage had not yet been discussed, and so it had not been decided whether or not to have lockers in the extension. A sub-committee, consisting of members from both sections, will face the challenge over the next six weeks, of considering how best to use the space.
- p) In response to a question from *Kate Williams*, *George* said there will not be separate toilets for men and ladies in the extension, but there will be a disabled toilet.

q) There followed a short discussion relating to the feeling that not all members have been fully convinced of the need for the extension. **Kate Toon** thought it was essential because there are going to be more mixed matches, which require extra changing rooms. However, **Chris Biddles** thought some doubt may have been caused by members not being kept well enough informed about what has been happening.

**Colin** disagreed that there had been lack of communication. Information had been available in the Syston Green, at coffee mornings, and from the monthly Board meetings. All the directors were fully aware of matters relating to the extension and would be able to answer queries from members.

**Rolf** supported **Colin's** view and said that Syston was one of the few bowls clubs which ran in such a way as to involve everyone. He encouraged members to come forward and be part of the process.

r) Finally, **Doreen** thanked **Colin** for all his efforts on the club's behalf and made particular reference to the Syston Green. She was pleased **Alan Collins** would be carrying on the good work with the newsletter and she was confident in **Alan's** capabilities. She knew he was keen to receive more articles and news items and also would approach members to ensure the Syston Green continued to be what the members wanted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed.....Chairman      Date.....