

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYSTON BOWLING CLUB (COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE, SYSTON, ON FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2017 STARTING AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:

Miles Clare - Director
George Dodge - Chairman
Val Foreman - Director
Colin Grimes - Director
Maureen Page - Director
Rolf Meyer - Director
Pete Murray - Director
Kate Williams - Director
Pauline Wright - Director

Together with 37 voting Members and 4 Visitors.

Apologies for absence were recorded from *Margaret Abbott, Trevor Allen, Don Creasey, Chris Dodge, Anne Gale, Beryl Gent, Kieron Jordan, John Lamble, Brian Madelin, Marlene Murray, Hilary Newman, Mark Newman Hazel Rayns, Andy Savage, Julie Warrington and John Woodward.*

EGM17.01 INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN

George welcomed everyone to this very important meeting and expressed satisfaction that so many members were present.

He mentioned the setting up of the unification working party, as a way of anticipating problems and making recommendations to simplify a difficult task as much as possible. He thanked those, representing a cross section of the membership, who had agreed to serve and who's efforts, supported by advice from others, had led the way to this EGM. Members had been kept fully informed throughout via the Syston Green.

The directors, having scrutinised the recommendations of the working party in detail, were now able to offer the members the option of considering, and voting upon, a number of formal, draft resolutions. All the issues involved will be presented in a logical manner by the resolutions, which, if accepted, will enable the club to be effectively relaunched, from 1st January 2018, enjoying the strong support of the membership.

He encouraged all in attendance to voice any concerns they have about the draft proposals and to press for satisfactory answers to their queries. In an open and democratically run club, that is the right, indeed the duty, of every member. All the recommendations are open to challenge and it is a matter of acting responsibly and wisely to bring about what is best for the future of the club.

EGM17.02 CLUB UNIFICATION

Colin, as head of the working party, introduced the 7 resolutions to be considered, after, first, confirming many of the points mentioned by *George* in his opening address. He explained that if any amendments were proposed and seconded they would be decided by a show of hands.

Resolutions **a)** and **b)**, concerning approval in principle of the unification of the club, with effect from 1st January 2018, and the new management structure, consisting of a board of directors and a management committee, were each passed, with one abstention.

There was some discussion about resolution **c)**, which set out the number and composition of the unified board. *Chris Biddles* asked who would decide how many

directors, up to the maximum of 15, were required at any particular time, and **Colin** replied that the board itself would be responsible. In answer to another query **Colin** explained that the Welfare and Safeguarding Directors were essential, and he went on to detail the duties of each director. Again, this resolution was approved, with 1 abstention.

Resolution **d)** listed the 6 posts to make up the management committee, with a note of the assistance to be provided to its members and also a clarification re the catering manager.

Doreen Payne thought the committee ought to be larger, to involve more club members, as had happened in the past on the men's and ladies' committees. She feared it might become difficult to make different points of views heard. However, **Colin** assured her that lines of communication will remain very much open to all members through the directors and those on the new committee.

At this point **Roy Hill** told the meeting why he had abstained in the earlier votes. Throughout his 20 years of membership he had always considered the club to be unified anyway, with the men and ladies working well together, and so the current process was unnecessary.

Resolution **d)** was then passed, with 4 abstentions.

Resolution **e)**, that the elected officers should retire on an annual basis with the option of offering themselves for re-election, generated some differing opinions, **Stan Page** and **Roy Hill** favoured having a vice president on the management committee, to give the person experience for the following year. On the other hand, **Janet Lowe** said that when she stood in as ladies' president, as **Sheila Aindow's** daughter was ill, she had received all the advice and support she needed.

Colin Wilkinson proposed, seconded by **Roy Hill**, that there should be a vice president, but the amendment failed and the resolution was then passed, with 2 against and 4 abstentions.

Resolution **f)**, to amend the Articles of Association to allow a maximum of 15 directors, was carried unanimously, and, finally, **g)**, that the assets of the 2 sections should be transferred into the control of the new board, was also carried, with 2 abstentions.

As the club was now totally unified, elections went ahead to form a board of directors and a management committee. In only one case, that of Welfare Director, was there more than one nomination for a post. Accordingly, with that one exception, all the nominees were declared as being returned unopposed.

A secret ballot was held to decide who would be the Welfare Director. Prior to it, opinion was expressed that it might be better to have 2 welfare officers, one for men, and the other for ladies. An amendment to that effect, proposed by **Chris Biddles** and seconded by **Doreen Payne**, received 10 votes, but was defeated. Subsequently, **Janet Lowe** was elected as Welfare Director, by a large majority.

There had been no nominations for the post of Fixtures Secretary and this matter was to be left in abeyance for the present. However, **Pete Murray** stepped forward and agreed to do the job, being returned unopposed.

EGM17.03 END OF MEETING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN

George said a bold decision has been taken tonight and great thanks are due to the unification working party for their tremendous groundwork. Although there will inevitably be challenges in adapting to the new structure, careful planning, flexibility, and the good will, which typifies the spirit of the club, will undoubtedly see any such problems readily addressed and solved.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed.....Chairman Date.....