HAMILTON
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Date: 14/10/2024

Dear «Forename»

2024 AGM minutes

Held on 24th May 2024 at 7pm

Present:
Bol Boniewicz, Janice Brookes, Gillian Bunting, James Champkins, Mary Corvin, Yvonne Jarvis, Jill Luke, Eileen Merrison, Margaret Roskell, Maggie Saunders, Colin Stott, Lesley Sutherland

Apologies:
Polly Ahir, John Coleman, Claire Cook, Richard Cook, Cindy Coulter, Rosie Gildove, Gill Haffenden, Will Harrison, Davina Hughes, Gordon Hughes, Melanie Naylor, Stan Pasiak, Dave Riddle, Tim Sage, Alison Westray, Rob Westray

"The vice chair waited for 10 minutes to see if more members attended, the constitution states:
The quorum for the Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings shall be at least 25 members or one-tenth of the Full Members (5.4.2) of the Club whichever is the greater. "

On the basis that the required forum was not achieved, the meeting was closed at 7:10pm

On the basis that the Management Committee complied with the constitution in arranging the AGM, the fact an AGM comprehensive pack was issued, there were no voting actions required, the constitution states the following and indeed does not make any reference to rescheduling a meeting, the 2024 AGM will not be rescheduled.
"The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held at such time and on such date as the Management Committee shall decide in each year and no more than fifteen months shall elapse between one Annual General Meeting".

Whilst there we no constitutional changes, members were invited to ask questions, prior to the meeting date, the following questions were submitted, and the Management Committee would have given answers as shown against each question.

Q&A
From a member
"Gordon these are the questions I would like answers to. These are not intended to be contentious. The club has been a haven for me and many of your longstanding members over the many years we have been associated with the club. I feel we, the members, are being neglected, where I believe we can do better and cater for both the membership and accommodate the hirers who provide an important part of our cash flow. We just need to manage it better to maintain a status quo".

Q1. I understand that the hire of a room is circa £70 to non-members. If this is the case it is too cheap.

Answer: Currently the room hire is £100, but we will investigate other venue hire costs.

Q2. Why do we offer membership to non-members, so they get the room hire free? They join and we never see them again.

Answer: Membership is offered occasionally, to non-members that live this end of town and have used the club for several bookings to encourage them to use the club on a regular basis e.g. more revenue. But we will consider adding that members can only have free hire after six months membership.

Q3. The club has the facilities to provide catering, so why do we allow parties to source their own food. As with corkage should we apply a cover charge if they chose to provide their own food. Profit opportunity lost.

Answer: Not everyone wants a buffet or catering and pop up tavernas and alternative is often used and potentially we could lose the booking if they have to have catering from us, we are still getting room hire and revenue over bar (the only exception is wakes where they do have to have catering done from us) but we will look at applying a cover charge for self catering.

Q4. When we do provide catering, why do we say if you have (only for example) 70 guests then cater for 50 as there will be plenty. Either reduce the amount we provide and charge for the number attending.

Answer: Often the person who has hired the room has asked for less than numbers (food wastage) more interested in having a drink and it is sometimes on wakes where they are unsure of numbers and will bring it down to the lesser number of people they think will be attending)

Q5. Why don't insist on damage deposit, no damage the deposit is refundable. This deposit should be at least £100. The smoking shed bench is a prime example.

Answer: A deposit may deter bookings and may be difficult to enforce as attributing any damage to a specific group unless covered on CCTV would be problematic, but we will look into this feasibility and compare to other similar venues.

Q6. When a room hire is booked, the members should have a designated room for them ONLY, signed accordingly and policed. We understand that the main bar probably has to be available for SOME functions, not all. If the MOON Bar is the designated sanctuary, then that would be fine. However, facilities need to be upgraded to represent a welcoming atmosphere.

Answer: There is always a bar designated to members, yes, the members bar could be improved, subject to funds the committee will review this. We'd be keen to get ideas and volunteers who may be able to help with this.

Q7. Control of Children, there is none. The attitude of most hirers is, once they arrive at the club, they can just let the kids run riot while they merrily get drunk.

Answer: The first thing to say is we totally depend on function hire, and we promote being a friendly family venue. Whoever hires the room is made aware that they are responsible and guests of theirs are responsible for their children and no access to the tennis courts etc we have installed CCTV monitor behind the bar to help with the surveillance and if there is a problem we do tell the organisers of the party children ,unfortunately we cannot be everywhere at once and can only prompt at the time that we see. We encourage members who witness any unruly behaviour to report that to the staff on duty so that incidents can be dealt with there and then.

Q8. Generally, there seems little regard for the membership when room hire events occurs. The members are here in the slack times and pay a subscription for the privilege. It is noticeable that recently when parties are booked a number of your mainstay members relocate to the Cherry Tree mainly because there is little or no control what the hirers do and what they can do in the club.

Answer: Is basically as number 7, however, we want members to feel comfortable and able to stay during any event at the club and a member's bar is provided for that.

Q9. The club website should be updated with ALL events. This should list in advance everything that is going on at the club mainly social hires which are a faits accomplis. Currently the only time that members know is by stumbling upon the chaos that ensues with nowhere to seek sanctuary.

Answer: The website is regular updated; we had a glitch with the events, but this is in the process of being fixed

Q10. Finally, we should have a hire contract that specifies the rules of hire and all conditions. To contract to be signed by both the management of the club and the hirers and enforced.

Answer: We have an online booking form which is used, and paper forms for other hire. Both of theses contain the terms of hire.

An additional question was asked at the meeting:

Question: consideration for the bushes at the rear of courts 1,2 & 3 to be lopped so that they are the same height of the fencing. She said that there was a lot of debris falling on the courts, especially during Autumn which makes the courts incredibly slippery.

Answer, Colin responded by saying "he would raise it with the committee and revert. Perhaps we should look for cost options as they are incredibly high and will only get higher".

As part of the AGM we included a section for members to ask general questions of the Management Committee, which did not happen, so if any members wishes to ask a question, could you please email us on hltc2019melton@gmail.com And we will provide answers to all the membership

The Management Committee