

MINUTES OF THE 95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HILLHEAD HIGH SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL TRUST HELD IN HUGHENDEN, 32 HUGHENDEN ROAD, GLASGOW G12 9XP ON MONDAY 22nd MAY 2017

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received in respect of S Barltrop, P Brunton, I Dewar, J Maclean, R Mohammed, S Ramsay and B Southern.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The Notice of the Meeting, having been duly circulated to the members, was taken as read, on the proposal of Mr Green, seconded by Mr Scott.

OBITUARIES:

The Chairman referred with regret to the death during the year of Colin McGregor, a former member of the Rugby section. The sympathies of the membership were extended to his family.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the previous AGM held on Wednesday 18th May 2016, having been previously circulated to the members on the website, were adopted on the proposal of Mr Mitchell, seconded by Mr Green.

BUSINESS ARISING:

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

DIRECTORS' REPORT:

The Chairman referred to his report which had been circulated in advance. He said that after establishing Hughenden Services Limited, we now have two sets of accounts to separate our sporting and commercial activities. This has resulted in more work for our financial administrator, for which we are very grateful. At the end of the year, we have some £53,000 in the bank. We had undertaken no major investments in the year but have some projects planned for the future, particularly in conjunction with the Tennis and Rugby sections. We have however invested in upgrading our ground maintenance equipment for the benefit of all members, and have made a contribution to each of the sections to be spent as they wish. After lengthy discussions with the Licensing Board, we have achieved an extension to our licence to allow alcohol to be served outside the clubhouse, although this is still subject to various restrictions. The coming season will be a test of how this can be operated within the laws. Our Membership Convener has been working on the membership data base and has managed to cleanse the system to a certain extent; however more work remains to be done. Once this is all in place, we hope to outsource the membership system to take the work away from our volunteers. During the year we tried employing a Business Manager to promote the club and try to increase usage of the upstairs facilities; this did not work out as we hoped and the contract was ended after six months. We are now moving forward with a refurbishment plan along with Café Source. The Tennis section are well forward with plans to redevelop the tennis courts in conjunction with the Trust; the Cricket section are developing plans to replace the Practice Nets and the Rugby section are planning to refurbish the floodlights on the training pitch. These plans have all been incorporated into our budgeting for the future season, as well as looking again at the water tank on the roof of the clubhouse.

There were a number of questions relating to forward planning. These are included in the items under A.O.B.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

Ms Lawton gave a brief explanation of the annual accounts which had been previously circulated. She said that the report from the Finance Committee had shown how matters had been divided to report on two entities on consolidated management accounts and said that this was still bedding in; she hoped that things were now properly separated. Overall annual turnover had been up slightly on the previous year, and the cash balance at the year end was also up slightly on 2015. She noted that all the loans made for the construction of the stand had now been repaid. She pointed to the increase in professional fees paid as a result of our need to separate our activities in order to continue to benefit from CASC status. Overall she felt that the Trust was now moving forward with its plans for the next year.

Mr Mitchell congratulated her on her presentation of the accounts and on her stewardship of the treasury. He commended the work done with HMRC over CASC. He asked if the Chairman should be acting as Finance Director as there might be a conflict of interest. Ms Lawton said that there had been no questions from the auditors on this and she felt it was not a problem. Mr Frame commented that the auditors would have raised the matter if it was a potential difficulty.

There being no further questions about them, the accounts for 2016 were adopted on the proposal of Mr Frame, seconded by Mr Welsh.

SECTION REPORTS:

Reports were given in respect of Cricket, Rugby, Shinty and Tennis. The Chairman thanked them for all their activities during the past year which had made the club's name so well known.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

There being two nominations for five places, Mr Kirkpatrick and Mr Scott were declared duly elected.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS:

On the proposal of Mr Frame, seconded by Mr Kirkpatrick, Messrs French Duncan LLP were elected as Auditors.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(i) Mr Frame noted that we had been hearing about different sections contributing towards funding for development of the club. He asked if the Board sees the accounts of the sections. Miss MacDonald replied that this had been the case in the past but that the practice had slipped recently. The Board would ask each section to pass on their accounts after their AGMs.

(ii) Mr Soden repeated his comment that the gym appeared to be neglected. The Chairman urged him to channel comments through the User Group and assured him that the Board would liaise with the new gym manager to ensure that everything was kept up to standard.

(iii) Mr Mitchell said he was still concerned about the number of projects which the Board was considering and how all this could be financed. The Chairman said that things were generally planned with input from fundraising by the section concerned, grant funding and a

contribution from the Board. For overall club investment, the Board looked at the grant application and fundraising aspects itself. He felt that the projects planned for the next year had put forward business plans which covered this. Mr Mitchell asked if there were any events planned to mark the reopening of the tennis courts after the upgrading. Mr Fowler said that this was still in the planning stage but would be publicised as soon as matters were settled. He repeated that all the projects were being carefully timed to fit in with funding.

(iv) Mr Frame asked about the data base and how it could be utilised to record donations, such as any contribution from Life or Founder members. The Chairman replied that this was one of the areas where the Board hoped that outsourcing to a specialist company would mean such extra possibilities would become available.

(v) There was a lengthy discussion from the Rugby members regarding how the club could be made more welcoming to themselves and possible new members. They felt that the upstairs bar was too quiet on a Saturday. Mr Taylor said that he had been in long discussions with Café Source about how to develop this area, and hoped that we were getting near to some refurbishment plans. Mr Mitchell asked that the members should be involved in the planning. There was then some discussion about whether the existing bar area could be altered to make it more welcoming, and perhaps a “dirty bar” established somewhere else. The Board agreed to look at all the suggestions.

(vi) The Rugby members asked if our membership fees could be reduced, since they felt that we have quite expensive fees in comparison to other clubs in the Glasgow area. In particular, they wondered whether overall fees could be reduced, rather than giving funds to the sections. It was explained that this had been considered the best option when we had traded well for 2015, but might not be the best solution for another year when we had investment projects in mind. However the Board would look at the membership fee structure when it next comes up for review.

(vii) Mr Frame noted that the discussion had shown how open the Board was to taking on new suggestions for investigating. Mr Deakin agreed with this and expressed his thanks to the Board for their development of the club over the years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2143 hours with a vote of thanks by Mr Taylor to the Chairman.