

MINUTES OF THE 96th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HILLHEAD HIGH SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL TRUST HELD IN HUGHENDEN, 32 HUGHENDEN ROAD, GLASGOW G12 9XP ON MONDAY 23rd April 2018

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received in respect of H Deas, J Lawton, H Low, J Mackie, V Melville, S Ross, A Scott 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 Bond, seconded by Mr Green.

OBITUARIES:

The Chairman referred with regret to the deaths during the year of Dave Berry and Iain Todd. The sympathies of the membership were extended to their families.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the previous AGM held on Monday 22nd May 2017, having been previously circulated to the members on the website, were adopted on the proposal of Mr Frame, 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 reminded the members that since 2017, 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. He said that the year had finally seen the long overdue replacement of the tennis courts, the upgrading and development of the bat, investment in our membership system and the establishment of a sinking fund to help secure our future activities at Hughenden. He said that the partnership with Legend Financial services to operate our membership system, along with input from some of our volunteer members, was producing results already. Our newly appointed Community Ambassador is working along with local groups to make more community use of our facilities, and this has increased footfall in both the club and our partners in Café Source Too. Our ground maintenance team have now completed their first full year on site, and despite an exceptionally wet and challenging year, have bedded in well; a new "360degree" feedback system has been started to allow all ground users to make feedback and suggestions on the schedule of work, and we hope this will lead to open discussion around scheduling and utilisation of the grounds by all users. After a few years of being cash positive, the Board has achieved a long term plan by establishing a ring-fenced "sinking fund" where we will deposit funds monthly and use them to finance future projects, whether long term planning, future planning such as tennis court replacement (required by the LTA under their loan funding support scheme) or as a cushion for urgent expenditure on the Trust's assets. He mentioned some of the items being planned under this such as the installation of practice nets for the Cricket section, working on floodlight refurbishment or replacement for the Rugby pitches and considering on going replacement of gym equipment. However he emphasised that we need to live within our means.

Mr Green asked whether any progress had been made regarding the water tank; he was told that investigation had found that the situation was not quite as bad as had been thought and that a by pass pipe could be installed, which had not cost as much as expected. There is an element allowed in the budget for next year to do more work here if required. Mr Mitchell expressed his disagreement with this means of addressing the problem; this was noted.

Mr Groves asked about the possibility of putting down a 4G surface. Mr Fowler said that there had been quite a lot of investigation of possible costs, land lay out and implications for the clubhouse facilities. At present, various discussions are still on going but nothing has been decided. Mr Mitchell mentioned Awards for All as a possible source of funding. Mr Kitchener said that there had also been some discussion about purchasing land at Garscadden along with a Clydebank Community Hub.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

Mr Fowler gave a brief overview of the accounts. He said that there was a small deficit in comparison to a small surplus the previous year. Mr Melville asked what had caused this and was told that we had generated slightly less income and had some increased operating costs this year. Mr Mitchell noted that we need to increase our operating surplus so that we don't need to dip into the overdraft, and said that he was still concerned about the need for an overdraft. Mr Taylor said that this question had been considered and that it had been felt that we still needed the comfort of an overdraft, but that I could be reviewed again in the future. Mr Frame said he agreed with this view of the situation. He then asked about the separation between the Trust and Hughenden Services and was told that broadly this related to our sporting and non-sporting activities.

There being no further questions about them, the accounts for 2017 were adopted on the proposal of Mr Frame, seconded by Mr Trotter.

SECTION REPORTS:

Reports were given in respect of Cricket, Rugby 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 three nominations for seven places, Mr Bond, Mr Kitchener and Mr Mohammed were declared duly elected.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS:

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

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(i) Mr Legendre asked about the membership structure and fees. Mr Fowler said that we were looking at comparative levels with other clubs and gyms, and were considering a simplification of the present structure; however it was difficult to assess the effect specific changes, such as a single sport category, would have on income.

(ii) Mr Soden complained about cleaning in the gym. The Chairman urged him to channel comments through the User Group and assured him that the Board would check this with the cleaners.

(iii) Mr Thomson asked if there were any plans to tidy the area round the bins and the back of the clubhouse. Mr Taylor and Mr Kitchener said that they were looking at perhaps fencing off the bin area and altering the layout of the parking. They will look at places where it is muddy and see what can be done there. Mr Groves mentioned problems around the spigot tap and was told that this too would be checked.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2112 hours with a vote of thanks by Mr Taylor to Mr Fowler, acknowledging all his work for the Trust over the past six years.