

Horsmonden Social Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting: Friday 28 February 2020, 1945

Present

Lindsey Chave (Chair), Chris Reed (Secretary), Ann Coyne (Treasurer), CJ Couchman, Ken Vizard, John Shekyls, David Bell, Pauline Bell, Pat Kellas, Stuart Davis, Caroline Davis, Lawrence Arscott, David Watson, Richard Norman, Bill Payne, Bridgette Walsh, John Ridley, David Walsh, Nick Belton, Ray Moon, Richard Edmed, Brian Marlwick, Martin Cobley, Ken Mills, Geoff Mills, Carry Smyth, Rupert Lovell

Apologies for absence

Billie Edmonds-Bell, John Edmonds-Bells, Paul Fleury, June Fleury, Anne Reed, Trevor Reed, Michael Millward, Nora Millward, Jan Botten, Peter Botten, Claire Reed, Robin Morton, Diana Morton, Ian Read

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and asked if those present could observe a minutes silence in memory of those members who had passed away since the last AGM, especially Ewen Kellas, Pauline Ridley, Jenny Lethem, Tony Styles, Mr Heasman and Mr Beale.

Minutes of the last meeting (held on 22 February 2019)

The minutes were approved without amendment.

Proposed by: Carry Smyth

Seconded by: Sheila Vizard

Chair's report

The Chair reported that the year has started with a very successful Burns night, organised by Kell with the help of Alison Scott. The Chair recognised the significant contribution of the many volunteers who support this and our other events. Six weeks later the Chair informed members we had the Six Nations live on the big screen, a hugely popular event with members.

There were many private parties and fundraising events which we're thankful to be able to host at the Club

There was St Georges night in April, another great event again, all organised by our volunteers, before we readied ourselves for the Village Festival (no small task) with considerable support from Nick Belton, Richard Edmed and Hayle Farm who the Chair acknowledges for their support with building an even bigger bar. A hard weekend, but enjoyed by all in the community.

The Chair paid tribute to Kell, reminding members that sadly this was also the weekend we lost a great man, Ewen Kellas (Kell as we knew him), our President, our friend and a huge pillar of the community. He was such a huge part of the Social Club having, with Alan Couchman, brought the Club back to what it is today and for that alone he will never be forgotten. This was clearly recognised by the number of people who paid their respect at his memorial service which concluded at the Club with the community spilling out onto the Village Green.

In July the Club's Beer Festival returned, a great afternoon for family and friends to meet up, sample some great beer, food and entertainment.

After a bit of a break over Summer, November saw the return of Rugby on many Saturday mornings for the World Cup. The Club was regularly packed with members watching the matches and enjoying a bacon roll and cheering on England (just a shame we didn't quite bring the cup home).

Then came Christmas. The Chair updated members on this busy time of year for our volunteers with Carols on the Green (although in the Club this year), Christmas Draw etc, a great time had by all and a few very dedicated volunteers kept everyone well oiled over the Christmas period.

We ended 2019 with a great New Year's Eve, something different and many new faces, so that was 2019, a year that passed in a flash.

The Chair concluded by thanking a few volunteers:

- Pete Botten and Simon Jupp for looking after the cellar and keeping our beer to a high standard
- Pete and John Couchman for unblocking toilets, cleaning up leave and mopping up floors when we have floods
- Bar volunteers, without whom there simply wouldn't be a Social Club, giving up their family time to keep the Club open
- The Committee and in particular Treasurer, Ann Coyne who did some great work this year sorting out a new bank account for the Club

Proposed by: Caroline Davis

Seconded by: Ray Moon

Secretary's report

Nothing quite so substantial as the Lease negotiations this year.

Thanks to other committee members supporting with areas such as insurance. Particular thanks to David Watson for securing a better deal for us using his work expertise.

All licenses had been maintained, including the addition of the TV licence enabling the continued screening of the Six Nations and other events and additional alcohol licensing for the bar at the village festival.

This year we plan a detailed review of our music licences and will be looking at the screen and sound system to improve how they are used and ensure we're only paying for what we need.

The booking system for events, now runs entirely through the website continues to work well. Two or three requests are received a week at busy times meaning there is rarely a week when there's not something happening, as the Chair reported, the Club is well used by the community.

This year we are moving to a new membership system, which we hope will address some of the challenges we have had with getting newsletters out to some members, a thankless task that has been taken on by Billie Edmonds-Bell and David Watson. I also like to acknowledge Tim Coyne who has helped us with GDPR and Legitimate interest processing.

Proposed by: Lawrence Arscott

Seconded by: John Shekyls

Treasurer's report (accounts)

Chris Reed (Secretary) presented the accounts on behalf of the Committee, acknowledging that this was the first year that task had not been done by Ewen Kellas (Kell). Chris acknowledged the work of Ann Coyne (Treasurer) and Catherine Catchpole who prepares the Club accounts each year.

Chris drew members attention to a number of key points in the accounts:

- Bar sales have declined this year £2,880 down on last year but that was a year where we saw an unusual £6k increase
- % profit down to 37%, but remains close to the recommended 40% we have strived for for a number of years
- That said we are still in good financial health having made a greater surplus this year than last (£2,028 more than last year)
- Given the end position and suggestions from the members at the AGM last year your Committee have been investigating opportunities to renovate the Club using these funds
- Income outside of bar sales is comparable with last year
- Membership subscriptions are down slightly, once again, in part due to a decrease in members over the past few years. Members are also making less donations (in addition to their membership fee) given the overall financial health of the Club
- However we have begun to see this change this year with the introduction of the Ewen Kellas Memorial Fund, through which the Committee approved the first donation at our last meeting, to the new Village Community Garden. This will feature in next years accounts
- Payments are £5,117 down on last year
- Significant reduction in insurance costs following change of provider - thank you to D Watson (as mentioned earlier)
- Didn't have cost of lease negotiations (legal costs) from last year
- Both furnishing and repairs and donations are broken down in more detail on the second page

End of year position: £66,646 in the bank, compared to £56,826 the previous year.

Chris invited questions on the accounts from the membership. No questions were posed.

Proposed by: Pat Kellas

Secoded by: David Bell

Election of the Club Committee

Existing members of the Committee stepping down: Diane Baylis, after a year and Heidi Chadwick, after 3 year. It was of course also with great sadness Kell also left us, and the Committee last year, having given 12 years service to the Club. Under our constitution The Committee select a President, however it is not compulsory to have one. At this time the Committee have not chosen to appoint a new President.

The Secretary offer a huge thank you to all of them for their significant contribution to the Club.

The Secretary explained that the Committee requires a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16, including the Officers and Trustees, but excluding the President and 16 nominations had been received, therefore as with previous years a secret ballot is not required, unless there are any objections from members - no objections were received.

The Secretary informed members:

1. Existing members of the Committee willing to stand again as officers/ Trustees (four Trustees are required as per the terms of the Club's Trust Deed): Lindsey Chave (Chair), Ann Coyne (Treasurer), Chris Reed (Secretary) and Nick Belton (Trustee)
2. Existing members of the committee willing to stand again: Richard Edmed, Bill Payne, Paul Fleury, David Watson, Alison Scott, Billie Edmonds-Bell, Janice Botten and Lawrence Arcscott.
3. Members nominated to join the committee this year: Pat Kellas, Bridgette Walsh, John Ridley and Ian Read (no relation of Chris Reed)

Proposed by: Ray Moon

Secoded by: Ken Vizard

Any other business

The Chair invited members present to raise any other business.

Items raised with Secretary in advance:

- Replacement of coffee machine: Secretary was able to confirm to member that this was in hand, the Committee will be replacing the coffee machine in the next few months.
- Offer of a piano - to be discussed - majority against

Business raised during the meeting

- Donations - Question raised regarding how different organisations receiving donations each year were selected. The Chair explained that organisations applied, usually via email and the Committee made a decision on each 'application' individually, however there is now an application form as part of the Ewen Kellas Memorial Fund.
- A vote of thanks was proposed by members for Officers and Committee (Ray Moon)
- Lindsey offered thanks to the Secretary for his work behind the scenes and for pulling the AGM together

The Chair closed the meeting with a final round of thanks for the Committee and other volunteers for their support over the past year.

The meeting closed at 20:12.