



EGM MINUTES OF FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER AT 19.40hrs

Present:

Stan Barber (Chairman)

Andrew Reddy (Secretary)

Pete Sherman (Vice Chairman and Events Coordinator)

Bill Ford (Membership Secretary)

Stewart Argo (Committee Member)

Moira Barber, Stuart Brooks, Robin Frankton, Gordon Grant, Sam Hampton-Smith, Celia Hawco, Barry Hodge, Duncan McDowell, Tim Schroder, David Sparks, Jennifer Sparks, Kay Stuart, Alan Tough, Helen Williamson, Brian Young

Total Present: 20 members, 3 visitors

Item 1 – Welcome.

The Chairman opened the EGM, welcomed everyone, including the visitors and thanked them for attending. The necessary quorum as per the Constitution of 20% of paid-up members (12 out of 60 members), had been met with 20 members in attendance. T

Item 2 – Apologies.

Apologies were received from the following members:

Anne Burgess, Karen Cox and Family, Kevin and Jean Stocks, the Macfarlane family and Chris Stradling.

Items 3 – Election Of Office Bearer.

The Chairman advised the club that due to a reshuffle of the committee Pete Sherman was standing down as Treasurer to concentrate on his other roles. Stewart Argo, who had been treasurer prior to taking over as chairman in 2009, had put himself forward again for the position. There were no other nominees for the post.

This motion was proposed by Helen Williamson, and seconded by Bill Ford.

A vote was taken to confirm the appointment, with the result being 20 votes in favour, none against, and no abstentions. The motion was carried unanimously.

Item 4 – Changes To The Constitution.

Resolution 1. To amend paragraph 4.1. from:

4.1. Application for membership of SIGMA shall be open to all interested individuals, parties and bodies. Children under the age of 18 will not be charged subscriptions. (AGM2010)

To: Persons under the age of 18 will not be charged subscriptions, but will not be paid-up members with an entitlement to vote. Any person over the age of 16 may apply for Ordinary or Student (paid-up) membership, though paragraph 4.10 requirements for a parent/guardian must still be met.

There was some debate on the change with a club member raising questions about 16/17 year olds being unaccompanied minors whilst also being fee paying members. The Chairman clarified the issue of unaccompanied minors as the current para 4.10 rule, of under 18s being accompanied by a parent/ guardian, resulted from the Club's interpretation of child protection legislation. On the other hand, the rights of an individual to vote at age 16 had to be considered, hence the reason for opening up fee-paying membership to 16/17 year olds. There might be potential for a change in para 4.10 requirements for accompanied minors but this would need more research and advice from relevant agencies.

The resolution was proposed by Pete Sherman and seconded by Stewart Argo.

A vote was taken on the resolution with the result being 20 in favour, none against, and no abstentions. The motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution 2. To amend paragraph 4.2.3. from:

4.2.3. Concessionary Membership is for individuals over the age of 60, and is to be at half the Ordinary Membership rate. (AGM2010).

To: 4.2.3. Concessionary Membership may be applied for by individuals over the age of 60, and is to be at 75% of the ordinary membership rate. Applications shall be considered in committee, but names must not be published in notes or minutes to respect the individual's right to confidentiality.

The Chairman explained that with the changes made at the AGM the club would be no better off financially, and this was the reason for this resolution. There were some questions raised over the wording, specifically "*applications shall be considered in committee*". It was felt that this presented the wrong impression, and after discussions was reworded "*applications shall be advised to the committee*". Some members felt that concessionary membership should be abolished completely, as the Constitution had contained a special 'hardship' clause. The Chairman explained that it was outwith the EGM remit to remove para 4.2.3, as such a resolution would need to be advised to the members in advance. The only choice was the para as it stood or the amendment as proposed but with slightly revised wording, that was still in the spirit of the EGM notified change. However, he promised to review the Constitution and would seek to replace para 4.2.3 with a more flexible one at a future AGM, should the Committee consider it necessary; the suggestion that he call a further EGM to vote on removing the clause was politely declined.

The resolution with the amended wording was proposed by Sam Hampton-Smith, and seconded by Gordon Grant.

A vote was taken on the resolution as amended, with the result being 16 in favour, 2 against, and 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried by majority decision. The new wording is as follows:

4.2.3. Concessionary Membership may be applied for by individuals over the age of 60, and is to be at 75% of the ordinary membership rate. Applications shall be advised to the committee, but names must not be published in notes or minutes to respect the individual's right to confidentiality.

Resolution3. To add a new sub paragraph at 4.5 to introduce proxy and postal voting.

4.5.2. Paid-up members may cast their vote at General meetings in person, by proxy or by post using the forms and system provided by the committee for that purpose. All proxy or postal votes must be received by the deadlines set by the committee, which must be reasonable and achievable. Votes received after such deadlines shall be deemed invalid. Spoiled voting papers shall be deemed invalid but must be retained for inspection for one year from the date of General meeting.

There was a short discussion on the resolution, and The Chairman explained the background to the new sub paragraph.

The resolution was proposed by Alan Tough and seconded by Brian Young.

A vote was taken on the resolution with the result that 19 members voted for, 1 against, and no abstentions. The resolution was carried by majority.

Item 5 AOB

No AOB had been advised by the deadline set and no further matters were raised at the meeting.

Item 6

The meeting was closed at 20.17