

MILDMAY CLUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting date; Monday 2nd December 2024

Time; 7.30pm

Present; Tom Jones (President), Laurence Fryer (Vice President), Dan Isaacs (Treasurer), Pete Brown, Colin Butler, Tom Campbell, Andrea Davies, Lucian Evans, Kat Heaton, Jon Riley, Barnaby Taylor, Jonny Trunk, John Woods.

Non voting; Terri Ciftci (Head of Bar & Functions), Iona Dudley (Manager), Peter Snell (Secretary),

1. Apologies; Andy McAdie

2. Minutes of the last committee meeting; Minutes accepted as a true record for signature and posting in the Club.

3. Matters arising

All covered in subsequent reports.

4. Reports

Licensing report

Tom; reported that there has been a visit from Hackney Licensing Officers in response to noise complaints. They had written to tell the Club it needed to fit a sound limiter as specified on the Club Premised Certificate despite previous verbal assurances alternative procedures to control noise nuisance were adequate. The Club had commissioned DB Acoustics to identify ways to reduce noise escaping from the Club and to establish the setting required for the sound limiter to comply with License requirements. The Licensing Team had also suggested the Mildmay Club needed to get a premises license to cover it for licensed events open to the public other than Members and accompanied guests. The meeting agreed to;

- Commission Felix Faulkner of leading licensing law practitioners, Poppleton-Allen to work with our existing licensing Consultant Guy Hicks to apply for a Premises License to be used for Club events subject to Member Approval.
- Risk assess all events to be hosted until that was done and apply for Temporary Event Notices where necessary to protect the current License.

A. Secretary's report (Peter Snell)

Peter spoke to an email report circulated to Committee Members covering preparation for the tinsel and turkey event being organised, under the leadership Andy and his wife Glenys for the afternoon of Tuesday 10th December. The meeting approved a budget, estimated by Andy for the event of £1,050. Peter was nominated to host attendance from the Speakers Office to the event and the panto. Local Councillor Sade Etti had suggested De Beauvoir Councillor, Joe Walker, meet the Club to discuss its role in the local community in his position and deputy Cabinet Member for community engagement which Peter was asked to pursue.

B. Membership report (Tom Campbell)

Tom reported total membership stood at 2584. Consideration of new applications was now closed until next year. Dan noted a net increase in 2024 of over 1,000. Renewals were

planned to start on Friday 17th January with the date for starting interviews to be confirmed shortly afterwards.

C. Treasurers Report (Dan Isaacs)

Dan spoke to the November cashflow spreadsheet circulated to the meeting. He noted it now showed a £120k cash balance which is over £100k safe limit set by the Committee. He expected an additional inflow of £80k from newly recruited Members renewals in January. He noted the highest ever bar takings in November had been generated due to the number of events the Club had hosted. In view of the increased restrictions introduced to protect our license the Club needed to promote events in the new year and balance any loss of income with increased hall hire. He noted the 6 panto performances were sold out. Film hire income had been reduced but was less important now relative to income associated with events. T shirt/ merchandise income would be noted in the accounts from next month. Dan noted the work required to produce new Membership cards of which 200 were not collected in 2024 so it should be a priority to move to e-cards asap. With reference to noise nuisance issues Dan said he thought most noise escaped through the doors and any investigation should check how this could be reduced. In response to concerns from Dan the Committee agreed to only accept membership cash payment on formal renewal nights and give the cash box for this purpose back to the bar the same night.

Dan confirmed;

- the advertisement income had come from panto programme adverts.
- professional fees were for the sound engineer, security, & solicitors fees.

D. Entertainment (Andrea Davies/ Lucian Evans)

Andrea reported all events hosted by the Club had been popular and that December was also busy. She listed planned events providing a varied programme with lots of activities for Members.

E. Club Management (Iona Dudley)

Iona spoke to a written report and stressed the general need for volunteers to manage door entry particularly for the pantomime. She summarised the history of noise complaints and said it was difficult to understand what was causing complaints. A broken till had been replaced during its warranty. Temporary Event Notices (TENs) (were being sought for the pantomime then awaiting Council response) and for the "On the corner" event.

Bar & functions

Terri had been away on jury service but had been back in time to decorate Club. She highlighted the need to sort out the spirit store lock and key and said ongoing work was planned with Stock & Finance Officers.

F. Games Report (John Woods/ Andy McAdie)

John publicised the sports awards due the following Friday. He noted the second mixed darts team was struggling to keep going on Wednesday nights. The meeting agreed to fund table refurbishment and defective meter replacement.

G. House Report (Andrea Jung)

Andrea noted limited work was ongoing as per her written report to remain within agreed affordable budgets. She would meet Fiona before Christmas to give Fiona a forward work schedule as the Club's financial position improved.

H. Health & Safety (Jon Riley)

Jon spoke to a written report circulated prior to the meeting and reported final yard rubbish clearance was now done. There was now a marked area for Club waste in the rear yard. The Club needs to ensure fire checks get back on schedule after a busy and active period. Exit Notices needed review to ensure fire precaution compliance.

Jon had completed a major risk assessment for the panto. He provided outline proposals for an improved wheelchair lift for the main stairs developed with assistance from a Club wheelchair user, Ethan. Invalifts provided a proper wheelchair lift for £17.5K & accessory costs. It was available in black or another chosen finish to minimise visual impact and was approved in principle by the meeting. Cat & Tom C agreed to look into potential funders for the works. The meeting agreed that Jon should set up a funding and delivery committee including interested members. Peter to check with Cllr Walker possible Council contribution.

I. Stock and finance (Laurence Fryer/ Colin Butler)

Laurence summarised a written report on stock and finance activity listing actions which were approved by the Committee. He reported discussions on Guinness backup for Christmas due to trade warnings of unreliable supplies, by using Ansbach Black. He noted bag in box ciders were selling well. He reported on tastings done on low alcohol cans and Pete warned draught zero alcohol needs to be sold fast as it goes off more quickly in pipes than alcoholic beer. The meeting discussed the introduction of cask beer and agreed to integrate space for cooled 10l/ 20l boxes of cask ale into any new design.

5. AOB

Jonny reported that chair refurbishment was ongoing and he would chase up the bill from the joiner who saw the work as primarily a service to the Club. He was doing 8 chairs at a time as he lives in Kent and has to take them there and back

Iona reported phone snatching seemed common outside the Club. The meeting agreed Iona could contact local police to see if they had any advice on deterring it.

Cat reported she had applied for a Hackney Museum exhibition grant to mount exhibition of finds from the archives. The meeting agreed to give her a key for the archive room so she could monitor its use and control access.

The meeting agreed Peter would notify life Members of their selection before Christmas. Medals would then be handed out at the AGM.

6. Committee/ Officers only; Staff and other confidential business.

There was no confidential business to discuss..