MILDMAY CLUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting date; Monday 13th January 2025
Time; 7.30pm

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

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

1. Apologies; Pete Brown, John Woods (lateness)

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

A. Secretary's report (Peter Snell)
Peter spoke to a written report circulated in advance of the meeting. The meeting noted the success of the tinsel and turkey buffet for older Members in the Members bar and the New Years Eve Party. It agreed to repeat the events in 2025 and look to promote family attendance on New Years Eve. He reported he was due to meet a local Councillor and the Cabinet member on community empowerment the following Friday. Consideration of Licensing issues mentioned in the report were addressed by Tom Jones as a separate item.

B. Membership report (Tom Campbell)
2,100 Members now paid their subs through direct debit and £75,000 had been received from these in January. Renewals for those without direct debits would commence on Friday 18th January until the end of January and new Member interviews commencing on Tuesday 21st January. The meeting agreed cash renewal has to be by nominated committee members and volunteers on Fridays and not from behind the bar at other times. Tom C reported there had been nearly 200 new applications since interviews stopped. On occaisions gthe Club was hitting capacity limits and needed to continue to push for additional new fire exits with our neighbour Hanover which Member Sarah Eastman had been chasing.

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 Members renewals in January. He noted the highest ever bar takings in November 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 Club 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 and said that December had been busy. She listed planned events providing a varied programme with lots of activities for Members. The main build up was due after January and included our first trial of karaoke.

Special Report on Licensing (Tom Jones)

At this point in the meeting Tom read out a written statement deferred from the start of the meeting until John arrived. After subsequent discussion the meeting agreed it should take steps to obtain a Premises License with John registering an objection that we should not return to Members with this when it had been rejected at a previous Special General Meeting.

The meeting agreed Iona should contact the local school to see if we could hire their hall to allow more Members to attend than could be accommodated in the main hall at the Club. Peter told the meeting he would investigate whether our current rule book allowed remote attendance at general meetings. If this was not possible the meeting agreed that Peter should proceed with booking the Rio for Annual and General Meetings in March on the date and terms set out in his report.

E. Club Management (Iona Dudley)

Iona spoke to her written report circulated in advance of the meeting. She noted the choir was bringing in lots of new Members and making a good profit. She noted the increased popularity of bingo but that chair were cleared back to their source after games to allow access for cleaning. She noted the success of the new format tinsel & turkey event which could be a model for future years. She noted lessons should be learnt for future New Years Eve events to ensure ticketing was fair and supported its status as a family friendly event.

F. Games Report (John Woods/ Andy McAdie)

John agreed to liaise with Iona and Terri over recovering snooker tables and noted extra maintenance was now needed to address extra use and damage to table surfaces detailed by Andy. Laurence thanked John for organising an exchange sport day with Plumstead CIU Club on 8th March to which Members would be invited to play darts & snooker.

G. House Report (Andrea Jung)

Andrea noted limited work was ongoing as per her written report to remain within agreed affordable budgets whilst addressing essential requirements. She was liaising with Dan and Fiona to agree a work plan through 2025.

H. Health & Safety (Jon Riley)

Jon spoke to a written report circulated prior to the meeting and briefed the meeting on a false fire alarm. The meeting agreed that Jon should actively progress the installation of a platform lift to improve wheelchair access and work with other Committee Members to explore sources of external funding.

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

Laurence introduced a report circulated in advance by Terri and gave more detail on some of the content. He reported that a Mediterranean style lager would replace the Cornish Orchard cider tap and that the supply of low selling Carlsberg lager was under ongoing review.

5. AOB

Kat reported that a Hackney Society sold out visit of 50 members was due on Wednesday 15th January and the Hackney Council Heritage Planning Officer was due to attend.

Jonny reported chair refurbishment were charged at £15.00 per chair and the joiner we use wanted to quote for bar refurbishment.

Terri requested a new quotation for the provision of staff Mildmay sweat shirts and approval of their purchase. The meeting asked Dan to work with her on this.

Iona reported that a delivery service for Il Bacio pizza offer was being investigated to enable locally produced food to be made available to Members and their guests.

Tom reported he had bought flowers for a supportive neighbour who had been through a challenging period.find.

Terri reported progress on the annual stock take.

Dan reported progress on getting accounts audited in time for the Annual General Meeting.

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

Observers were asked to leave for discussion of a disciplinary matter apart from Iona and Terri who stayed to verify the facts of the case..