MILDMAY CLUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting date; Monday 12th May 2025

Time; 7.30pm

Present; Laurence Fryer (Vice President), Dan Isaacs (Treasurer), Colin Butler, Tom Campbell, Andy Caws, Lucian Evans, Kat Heaton, Paul Kennedy, Jon Riley, Jonny Trunk, David Wainwright. Chris Mannerings.

Non-voting; Iona Dudley (Manager), Peter Snell (Secretary), Sam (bookkeeper)

1. Apologies; Andy McAdie (President), Terri Ciftci (Head of Bar & Functions), Andrea Davies, Lucian Evans.

2. Minutes of the last committee meeting.

Minutes accepted as a true record for signature and posting in the Club.

3. Matters arising

Dan circulated a jobs checklist ahead of the meeting and ran through the various "to do" items with the following updates;

- Planned consultation with Members. Kat reported she was working with Dave and other members to sort out consultation interviews over the summer which would be followed by an online survey.
- Membership update and discussion was deferred to Membership report.
- Member consultation.
- Jon and Andrea J reported that there had been progress with the proposed stair lift which was awaiting budget. He was investigating planning requirements noting that it was a temporary structure when set up for use but it would be best to obtain unofficial reassurance of the relevant planning framework that it does not constrain the fire escape route.
- Jon also reported progress on fire escape access through the back of the rear garden. Discussions with neighbours (exit route would join into that of Thirlmere House) had been deferred subject to advice from consultants on its impact on likely permitted Club capacity before launching discussion with Members.
- Discussion of event hire costs was deferred to consideration of the management report.
- Kat reported that original artwork for a commemoration poster for Tom Jones was being prepared by local artist at a cost of about £500 and a similar cost for rights to use the artwork for other purposes.
- The meeting agreed a budget of up to £1,000 for works approved is advance with Dan. A presentation event would be scheduled for 6th June to present the artwork and card to Tom.
- Installation of the neon snooker sign used by a recent film hire was approved at a cost of £360.00 but the meeting noted its safe attachment needed to be checked.

4. Reports

A. Introduction

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had invited a member to a disciplinary hearing from 7.30pm. If he did not attend, Peter proposed to continue with the meeting but suspend normal business and conduct the hearing if the Member did attend subsequently.

B. Treasurers report

Dan summarised forward bank balance predictions circulated in advance to the meeting & explained their basis. He warned that under the Clubs current reserves policy he did not think we could afford to instal the wheelchair until January unless the Club received unexpected income for example from film hire.

Sam outlined the procedures for approval and payment of expenses incurred by Committee Members. Invoices which allowed VAT to be reclaimed should be obtained in place of receipts. There is a limit £500 for individual purchases but it was best to circulate the case for a purchase with justification in advance. For purchase over £500 Members were expected to obtain 3 quotes.

C. Secretary

Peter spoke to his written report to explain the timetable for our new rules to be approved by the Financial Conduct Authority. He summarised discussions on internal and external reviews of support for social clubs. Peter promised to gather more details of the “stir to action” event on 11th September & the round table meeting planned at Walthamstow Trades along with other CIU engagement meetings to circulate to Committee Members.

D. Membership

Tom said the Club now has 2,867 members and there were reduced numbers of new applications. He proposed to consider setting limits on Membership numbers in the summer break following consultation with Members. He felt there was no need to increase subscriptions this year. He noted interview breaks always took place over Christmas, summer and the election period and that the Mildmay loses 200 new Members each year mainly from cash and annual payment members. The meeting agreed to suspend interviews between Tuesday 24th June & restart them on 9th September.

E. Entertainment

Iona summarised the report circulated in advance of the meeting listing April highlights and events due in May. She advised the meeting she was scheduling an additional night for Choir concert to meet demand for tickets.

F. Management

Iona spoke to a report she had circulated outlining the proposals from Hackney Police on likely conditions for any premises license. The most demanding related to CCTV coverage of all licenced areas which she was discussing with CCTV providers. She promised to give a CCTV update to next meeting.

She was disappointed to report that extra noise complaints had been received including those about sound emanating from the side door to Members Bar and builders’ noise.
In response to discussion over control of events and hospitality riders at the April meeting Iona had circulated her proposed more nuanced approach to future bookings She asked for feedback on ideas of higher fees for promoters and noted no hire fees were currently charged for the “on the corner” jazz club and & the “video preservation society”.

She advised hospitality riders should only be agreed for entertainers directly hired by the Club. She noted the need for discussion on whether Committee Members should have free access to events at the Club. The meeting agreed to proceed with agreeing policy in all these areas once the President returned from holiday.

Iona outlined her investigations into the provision of roller blinds for the small hall and the meeting approved her proposals to commission blinds for £860 from her preferred supplier.

G. Games report

Andy Caws spoke to a series of snooker competitions and training events advertised in posters circulated in advance to the meeting. He thanks John Woods for continuing to organise the events advertised. Paul Kennedy offered to support him in maintaining the tables and emptying light meters. (I hope I've remembered this right – I wrote the name down but not what was promised)

H. House report.

Andrea J spoke to a written "house" report which was noted and accepted by the Committee. She said an informal discussion on costs and income from the flats, scheduled for completion by the end of the year, suggested they would yield net income of around £60k pa.

I. Health & Safety

The latest external fire risk assessment had noted great improvements. Jon was planning a training event for Committee members on their role in the event of fire. He'd hosted a useful and supportive visit from the head of the local fire brigade and was looking forward to ongoing liaison.

J. Stock and Finance

Laurence spoke to a report submitted in advance by Terri. He noted that during the refit of the basement bar in August drinks provision for Members will continue in the main hall. He was meeting with the House Committee and staff on 13th May to finalise details of the works required.

H. Merchandise

Jonny spoke to a written report supplied in advance to the meeting and noted good sales and £2,248 income to the Club, so far, from the merchandise on sale.

4. AOB

Laurence noted the increasing number of cyberattacks and advised that the Cub needed to move to two factor authentication for users with access to the Club email. He promised to introduce proposals to a future meeting.

Laurence noted the need for more volunteers to support the Bingo and asked for volunteers from the Committee. Dave Wainwright suggested he was happy to assist.

Peter noted that the Member subject to misconduct allegations had failed to turn up for the hearing set up to hear the case. The meeting agreed he should remain suspended from use of the Club and to invite him to attend another hearing at 7.30pm at the next Committee meeting which would reach a conclusion of the allegations in his absence if he again failed to attend. Peter promised to write and inform him of this decision immediately.

Date of next meeting; Monday 2nd June