MILDMAY CLUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting date; Monday 2nd June 2025

Time; 7.30pm

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

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

1. Apologies; Andy McAdie (President), Andrea Jung.

2. Minutes of the last committee meeting.

Minutes once amended for apologies & attendance were 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 noted progress on the premises license and better addressing noise abatement. He suggested all other issues would be covered under Officer and Staff reports.

4. Reports

Introduction

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had invited a member to a disciplinary hearing from 7.30pm. If he did not attend before the end of the management committee meeting the Member had been warned the meeting would conduct a disciplinary hearing into his alleged misbehaviour in his absence. Peter proposed to continue with the meeting but suspend normal business and conduct the hearing if the Member did attend subsequently.

A. Treasurers report

Dan summarised and explained forward cash flow movements through May and bank balance predictions circulated in advance to the meeting. The meeting noted a significant drop in anticipated income through the cancellation of the Stoke Newington Literary Festival and a film booking in June. Dan said that to complete works on flat refurbishment by the end of the year we could no longer afford to upgrade the bars in August.

Paul Kennedy offered to review our lettings contract to see if there could be stronger protection against cancellation. The meeting agreed the main hall can be booked out Fridays & weekends now it was no longer needed as a backup Members Bar..

The meeting agreed that the Club needed to update bar prices. Laurence offered to propose new prices to next meeting and to meet with Dan a week before the July meeting to finalise the details.

Dan 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.

B. Stock and Finance

Terri and Laurence spoke to written reports. The sub-committee had met to investigate the practicality of running additional lines from the cellar and there were ongoing discussions with Sustainable Wines about improving the range of bag in box wines on offer. Morrettti had proved a popular new beer on tap and replacement of 40ft stout with a pale ale was under consideration. Harry was being trained to act as holiday backup for Terri and the first of 6 monthly fire drill training for all staff had been completed.

C. Entertainment

Andrea D spoke to a written list of events she had circulated prior to the meeting along with details from the Club management report. She noted that the Madhouse comedy night had been a success and had access to sufficient acts to be a regular booking. The meeting congratulated Kat on the success of the VE Day celebration. Iona was looking to rebook June evenings left empty by the cancelled literary festival. The Club would try to host a third night of the Mildmay Choir concerts. Dan would sort out choir fees and a complete review of hire costs would be completed once Andy returned from holiday.

D. Club Management

Iona spoke to a written report. A proposal to increase social media support by increasing hours and wages for both Hannah and Geroge was agreed by the meeting with George's hours initial limited to 5 hours a week. The Club's branding sub-group agreed to meet with George and Hannah to agree goals and a style guide with George. Iona noted that the CCTV was now functioning and could be extended to save money on meeting the requirements of the Licensing Authority. Submission of a premises license application had been deferred until after a meeting with Club neighbours to reassure them on our plans.

A complaint had been received about the behaviour of the Security Industry Authority registered door officer (SIA) on one occasion although witnesses reported he had simply been doing his job. Officers had agreed a response that would simply re-state Club rules about guest entry and Iona would check this was an acceptable conclusion to the incident with the SIA before it was sent. Iona promised to investigate the supply of body worn cameras to key staff.

Staff had been trained in “Ask for Angela” protection for vulnerable Club users as part of the Council's Hackney Nights training. Notices needed to be posted around the Club. The meeting noted the need to establish clear policies to support staff in challenging misbehaviour of Members which could be adopted as by-laws.

E. Secretary's Report

Peter spoke to a written report circulated before the meeting. Laurence offered to join him at the CIU Branch General Meeting at Bardswell on 21st June. He promised to find out how many free places “Stir to Action” would make available to Club members for the launch of their Club Charter at the Mildmay Club on 11th September.

F. Membership Report.

Club Membership now stood at 2,940. Tom reported that Membership interviews would be suspended from 24th June until 9th September for the usual summer break.

G. Games Report

Andy spoke to a written report which noted May income from the snooker tables of £2,249.60 and from the pool table of £128.00. He reported that Keith Davis had recovered and refurbished three tables on 19th and 27th May and a film company had paid for one. He noted 37 Members had now signed up for the snooker league competition which was due to start on 6th June and be completed by 31st August. A Snooker Festival to widen engagement with snooker was planned for 21st/22nd June. Andy needed help with re-setting snooker payment meters but Iona suggested a replacement for a faulty unit had been purchased and needed to be installed.

H. House Report

Jon introduced a written reported circulated by Andrea J in advance of the meeting. Andy questioned the timescale to complete the flats and was told it included a conservative estimate of the letting process.

I. Health & Safety

Jon spoke to a written report. Andy agreed to support Jon on technical aspects of requirements following the most recent fire risk assessment. Jon would continue to seek Planning approval of the proposed wheelchair lift to the first floor.

J. Merchandise

Jonny reported that 1,000 units had been sold in the last month but said promotion posters were needed in the bar to supplement online publicity. Iona agreed to identify a supplier for card wallets so these could be added to the product range.

AOB

Kat spoke to the written report on membership consultation she had prepared with Dave and circulated before the meeting. The consultation would lead to a future facing workshop. A Club Member who was an experienced facilitator had volunteered to support the process. The proposals was welcomed and approved by the meeting.

Jon thanked Kat, staff and the archive group for engagement with David Baksh and Anna's "Dear Mr Manley" filming proposal for the Club. The Committee agreed to allow the work to proceed within the safeguards set out in his written submission.

Tom Jones formal handover presentation was now scheduled for July.

The meeting finished at 21.42

Date of next meeting; Monday 7th July