MILDMAY CLUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting date; Monday 7th April 2025

Time; 7.30pm

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

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

1. Apologies; Laurence Fryer (Vice President), Chris Mannerings.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves to other Committee members as this was the first meeting since the 2025 elections. Andy M had talked to new Committee Members about the role they might fill on the Committee. David would work with Kat on Member consultation to tailor Club activities to member interests. Paul would work with the Entertainment team seeking to bring in more traditional music. Andy Caws was invited to provide a nominal lead for games although John Woods would continue to support that work. Andy M would continue to support snooker through table maintenance and cash collection. Bar shift Lead's Paul and Harry would be trained to empty cash and Jonny Trunk offered to train up as backup.

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 decided to purchase 400 new rule books of the smaller card case size. It noted investigations into the conduct of the elections and approved plans to improve their management in 2026. The meeting nominated Peter Snell as its delegate to the CIU 2025 AGM in Blackpool.

B. Membership report (Tom Campbell)

Tom reported membership now stood at 2,752 despite the pause in interviews over the AGM/ election period. Interviews would re-start on 8th April and then run until the normal summer break. Tom noted Membership had grown by 1,000 over the previous year and the meeting discussed whether to limit it. Andy M noted we'd rarely reached Club capacity limits, and these might be increased through our current review of fire safety and discussions to secure another fire escape route. Once the Club obtained a Premises License and non-Members could attend events applications might reduce. If Members wanted to impose a limit the Club could further tighten rules for applications or stop accepting new applications. There were now 1,500 on the waiting list for interviews including 250 that had applied since January. The meeting agreed any restrictions should provide scope for room bookings and special cases. A further review would be held during the summer interview closure window.

C. Treasurers Report (Dan Isaacs)

Dan provided a spreadsheet of cash flow in March to the meeting and explained significant movements. Film income had been significant. David questioned whether quarterly reports might be more appropriate. Dan agreed to meet with him and explain the various financial reports he could generate but several members said they liked the current spreadsheets to support Dan's verbal report.

Sam noted questions to the AGM about accounting practices and suggested it might be better to provide workshops in advance of the AGM so we could publish FAQs in advance of next year's meeting. She noted that our reserves policy meant we always keep cash reserves of over £100k to cover emergencies.

Dan reminded Committee Members that prior approval was required for any payments of over £100. Since our financial position had improved the Committee needed to review whether to speed up the building works or pay down the mortgage. The mortgage had now been in place for sufficient time to avoid any penalties for early repayment.

D. Entertainment Report (Andrea Davies/ Lucian Evans)

Lucian spoke to a written reports circulated in advance. Andrea Jung and Kat Heaton volunteered to support the fish and chip supper.

E. Club Management (Iona Dudley)

Iona talked to her written report and urged committee members to sign up for the online volunteer rota with a particular need to increase support for bingo. David volunteered to train up for bingo calling. Iona noted the need for volunteer support to clear out rubbish before the external fire risk assessment due on 16th April. Iona explained that she allowed some charity fund raising events, but these were generally limited to applications from Club members or registered charities. Iona reported there would be no Stoke Newington Literary Festival this year as the organiser was having an operation (for cataracts).

The committee approved a booking for filming in June which Sam M said would not require closure of the Club.

F. Games

Discussed under "Introductions" above so not discussed at this stage of the meeting.

G. House Report (Andrea Jung)

Andrea spoke to a written report circulated in advance of the meeting. The meeting agreed Chris Mannerings could join the House Committee where Andrea hoped he would lead on facilities management. She had identified another volunteer called Amir, who offered expertise in fire safety and would investigate and pursue means to increase the maximum capacity currently permitted in the Club.

H. Health & Safety (Jon Riley)

Jon warned the meeting that there was no immediate obvious source of grant funding for the wheelchair lift outlined to previous meetings. The meeting approved immediate commissioning of the installation regardless of grant availability.

l. Stock and finance (Colin Butler)

This had mostly been covered by Terri's report. The new stout on tap from 40 foot brewery was selling well. The meeting suggested the choir were the biggest wine drinkers using the Club and they should be asked to review the range of wines on offer. A meeting had been scheduled for the following Tuesday with Club and Bar managers to review the bar refurbishment due in August.

5. AOB

None.

6. Committee only; Staff and other confidential business.

The meeting heard a verbal report from Terri on her written submission outlining complaints from staff about harassment by Paul Roberts since his return to the Club following 12 months suspension. The meeting appointed Peter and Jon to investigate the complaints and make recommendations to a hearing held as part of the management committee on 12th May on what action to take.

Andy M summarised issues raised regarding conduct around the elections and the actions taken be him and the Secretary to address them. He read out an apology from Tom C for his behaviour at the count and the meeting agreed this should be circulated to all those who had complained by the Secretary with details of the actions Officers would take to ensure elections were better organised in 2026.

Andy M also expressed concern about an event held at the Club with a very large guest list and no proper pre-agreed limit for free drinks. Andy reminded Members they were not allowed behind the bar and Dan volunteered to produce clear guidelines on hospitality riders for bookings limiting the number of guests and availability of free drinks. The meeting discussed free access to events for committee members and volunteers and agreed this too required clear guidance.

Kat questioned whether we could award Tom Jones life membership since we had already made 4 awards at the AGM. The meeting agreed unanimously his retirement had taken everyone by surprise and should be treated as exceptional circumstances where our self-imposed limit on the number of awards per year could be exceeded. (The committee has subsequently agreed to award Tom with his lifetime membership badge at his forthcoming farewell event.)