

**MINUTES OF THE 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HAMILTON WORKINGMEN'S CLUB HELD IN THE CLUBROOMS ON SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2021 AT 1.30pm.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

The President, Mr Brian Simpson welcomed Life Members, Colin Sullivan (Club Patron), Alison Nation (Accountant) and 109 members to the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

B Simpson reminded everyone that they needed to be a financial member of the Hamilton Workingmen's Club to be in attendance.

**PRESENT:** B Simpson (President) H Wood-Rowe (Vice President) R Donaldson (Treasurer) M Cameron (Secretary)

**TRIBUTE TO DECEASED MEMBERS:**

A moment of silence was observed as a tribute to members who had passed away during the year.

**APOLOGIES:** C Muir, D Crean, J Blair, D Evans, G Davy, C Campbell, C Morrison, R Shaw, T Boyle, B Marchioni, P Mason-Riseborough, W Sorenson, S Barford

**MOTION:** That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: B Simpson (0007)

Seconded: M McLuskie(1150) CARRIED

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

B Simpson started his address to the members by stating that he hoped they had all received their yearbook publication and had read his report.

B Simpson stated that his report was brief but to the point. There was not a lot to say with the things that New Zealand and the World had had thrown upon it. For all intents and purposes we came out the other side of the year and the COVID events in reasonably good shape. He has alluded to some successes/contributions that have put us in that position in the President's Report and gave real credit to the Management of the Hamilton Workingmen's Club and the entire staff who did everything in their power to make sure the Club was not adversely effected to any depth that was greater than necessary. The Club did apply for and receive all assistance that was available to us through the Government COVID assistance packages and those funds were all used in the appropriate manner as you can see in the notes to the financial statements. The end result for the Club is a financial situation which is good but not outstanding once again but however as in past years he would like to say that our Club probably stands in better stead than most. We have some work to do ahead of us to ensure that that situation continues and also encourage some of our members whom continue to be members to revisit the Club more often. Some have still chosen not to visit as often as they were with some not visiting at all due to a fear of social gatherings. COVID will be a part of life for some time to come and we will just have to deal with the consequences. Hopefully as a Club, a town or a Nation we will not have to have any more severe lockdowns but if we do we now know how to approach those situations and deal with them. Our membership diminished in round figures by about 500 over the course of the event. – some in age groups which he has already spoken of where the social gathering aspect has become a real fear – there has not been a noticeable change in attendance or turnover as a consequence now that we are up to full time trading again. Probably those other members who have chosen not to renew were not regular attendees. In the first couple of Executive Committee meetings of our new financial year there has been large numbers of new member applications – the new member application has been

simplified in recent years so that there is no requirement for a nominator and seconder. He explained the process around acceptance and the right to decline membership or to interview people to ascertain that they are suitable for membership. It has made the process easier but no less robust – at the last Executive meeting there was approx. 90 new applications. We do, however, suffer at the other end too because of our ageing membership - last year we also had about 90 deaths. All in all it was a good result for the financial year – Trading was down over all our major revenue streams and this was all attributable to COVID and the restrictions on trading as well as the closures. B Simpson stated that he still thinks that credit still remains with our Manager and the total staff of the Club for doing as well as they did.

B Simpson asked if there were any questions about the 2021 financial accounts.

**P Docherty 2580** stated he had taken onboard the comments regarding the impact of COVID. Regarding the restaurant specifically and the loss that is showing compared to the previous year. Is it anticipated within management of the Club that this year the trading figure should turn around? B Simpson replied that we certainly would. If you look at the trail of events and the comments that were made in previous years' Presidents report and financial statements you will note that prior to the COVID event we were making huge inroads into the operation of the restaurant and with two months to go to the end of the financial year we were showing a profit and had almost achieved the goal of 40/40/20 – COVID put paid to that and everything else for the 12 months. Whilst we were staffing a restaurant we were unable to put out the buffet meals in that style which is the preference of our membership and a major part of our turnover in there which suffered dramatically. So yes it is the goal moving forward to get back to the 40/40/20 equation and a profitable situation for the restaurant – it will require patronage and ongoing management. The answer to the initial question is yes.

**R McSheffrey 3819** stated that he wanted to follow up on what was reported in the Presidents report regarding the other Club. B Simpson replied he intended to discuss this in general business.

**MOTION:** That the President's Report for year ending 31 March 2021 be accepted as circulated and received and Financial statements for 2020-2021 be accepted as a true and correct record of the Club's financial position.

Moved: B Simpson (0007)

Seconded: B McLuskie (1010) CARRIED

B Simpson briefly explained to those present the procedure for listing items for General Business at this stage of the meeting and how these matters would be dealt with later during the course of the meeting. He explained that club members could then enter into discussions on the matters raised. He asked members to note that we had received notifications of some pieces of business that have already been brought to our attention these do not need to be recorded again in the general business items as they will be spoken to prior, under notices of motion.

**NOTICE OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. B Simpson (0007)
2. P Hassell (4938)

Frankton Railway Bowling Club  
General Club & Governance

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2020**

**MOTION:** That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 14 June 2020, having been circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record

Moved: T Marchioni (0759)

Seconded: R Laird (4271) CARRIED

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES:**

Nil

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

B Simpson stated that the Executive Committee sees no reason to alter the current membership subscription rates

**MOTION:** That the annual subscriptions remain the same as the previous year.

Moved: B Simpson (0007)                      Seconded: B McLuskie (1010)                      CARRIED

## **NOTICE OF MOTION/REMIT:**

B Simpson discussed the notices of motion pointing out that one would require a constitutional change. These have been moved by W Sorenson who has tendered his apology for today as he is in hospital. B Simpson stated that he has assured both W Sorenson and his supporters that the motions will still be dealt with in his absence. W Sorenson has asked B Harper to deal with the motions on his behalf.

## **Following originally moved by W Sorenson (0352)**

**That the following addition be made to the Constitution of the Hamilton Workingmen's Club:**

*All members wishing to stand for election to the HWMC Executive must reside within a 20km radius of the Hamilton Workingmen's Club.*

**B Harper (3635)** has agreed to speak at the meeting on behalf of W Sorenson. The reason behind this motion is that W Sorenson feels that currently a number of the Executive Committee do not attend the Club regularly – as an Executive member of the Club you need to know what the feeling of the Club and members is, you need to regularly socialise as one way of achieving that.

**P Evans (0957)** is speaking on behalf of D Evans (Life Member) as he is unable to attend due to illness. He feels this is a silly suggestion – he feels with the introduction of all the rest homes and subdivisions within 5 years most people will live more than 20kms from the Club and that this rule change would just not work.

**T Marchioni (0759)** is against the proposal – he fails to see what benefits it will bring to the Club. Hamilton is a fast growing City – people now live further away from the inner city and this will continue into the future. The proposed 20km restriction will penalise members that wish to stand for Executive Committee but choose to live outside that radius. He fails to see the logic in the proposal and thinks that perhaps the proposer has some ulterior motive.

**B Simpson (0007)** stated most of our constitution is geared around the treatment of all members and equality – this does not make it equal for all members. He does not believe this is about the non attendance of several Executive members as nine out of ten do attend and socialise on a regular basis and nine out of ten live within the 20km radius. It is really only pointed at one person and in an age of information and communication/technology that we have that person has done the job that they are required to do to the nth degree from the location he lives in for the last 10 years. In order to get rid of him all that had to happen was put in a 154km radius requirement. B Simpson is more than happy for members to have someone stand against him at elections and beat him fairly. Until that happens he is available.

**B Harper (3635)** thanked B Simpson for his time and reminded everyone that W Sorenson was the mover. B Simpson reminded everyone that there were 16 people that signed the pieces of paper that were handed in and B Harper was one of them. B Harper stated that he

didn't necessarily agree with them – B Simpson pointed out that he had signed them so he must have.

**MOTION:** All members wishing to stand for election to the HWMC Executive must reside within a 20km radius of the Hamilton Workingmen's Club.

M: B Harper (3635)

FAILED

B Simpson stated that there are four other items for consideration but before we go into them, and discussion is had, he wants to point out that if any of them are passed today we will need a whole constitutional change which removes Management and/or Executive from the equation because if any of these decisions are going to be made on this platform the rest of it does not count. If we are going to decide how our Manager is going to run lucky draws, whether or not we are entitled to shout someone a drink, whether or not we should have more or less snooker tables – this is a bad platform for any of those things. For example if you choose to put the motion regarding number of snooker tables B Simpson feels that he needs to warn people that should someone stand up and puts an amendment to the motion that we actually get rid of two more you would need to be prepared for that possible outcome if this is going to be the premise on which these decision are going to be made – he doesn't think it should be.

**The following notices of motion have been received from W Sorenson (0352)**

*Motion: No Honorarium be paid for the 2020-2021 year because of the losses over the previous seven years, and the impact that coronavirus has had on the Club.*

B Simpson stated that although this comes up in another part of the meeting there is a notice of motion so if it succeeds here we will not talk about honoraria again later in the meeting.

B Simpson asked if B Harper wished to speak to the motion - he declined.

**Paul Atkin (3974)** reminded everyone that it was W Sorenson that put the motions forwarded. B Simpson replied that there were 16 signatures on the notice. P Atkin stated that W Sorenson was concerned about the finances and how they have gone backwards over a period of time. Because of that he has put forward that no honorarium be paid this year. He also spoke regarding Club draws and that he felt this was a management issue and not an AGM issue. B Simpson agreed. P Atkin then spoke regarding hospitality tickets – he asked if two books were given to each executive member at each meeting – B Simpson replied this was correct. P Atkin stated the only time he has seen the tickets in circulation at the Club is prior to elections he believes they should be handed out at other times.

B Simpson asked if there was a motion or had P Atkin just wanted to discuss. P Atkin replied just discussion. B Simpson replied that was fine as he was entitled to be heard.

B Simpson asked if there was a motion to either of these – there was no proposer or seconder from the floor.

Honorarium will be discussed later in meeting as per normal procedure.

*Motion: That the Club do away with hospitality tickets & happy hours, to be replaced with a discount on presentation of membership card at the bar or restaurant. This is to give all members the same benefit.*

**R McSheffrey(3819)** asked what was happening with the motion if P Atkin did not want to propose – B Simpson replied that if R McSheffrey wanted to move for a vote he could.

**B Simpson (0007)** stated that the comment has been made that hospitality tickets are only seen just before an election and he strongly disagrees with this and that he believes they are in use every week – After an interjection he replied just because he is in Taupo doesn't mean he doesn't see what goes on. They are given out to people within the Club, they are given to members and it is a members benefit. Occasionally if an Executive member is shouting a round for a group of people they may include themselves in that round but in general terms hospitality tickets are exactly that – they shout either regular club members or visitors from other clubs. B Simpson sees it as an integral part of the hospitality industry. You don't hurt anyone by taking shout tickets away as there is no benefit to anyone other than members. If the attendees of the meeting wish to vote to remove something that has been in place for as long as the Club has existed (1955) and wants to make those kinds of decisions in this forum they need to be mindful that if a group of people decide next year the incoming Executive should get 10 sets of tickets each instead of 2 and enough people vote on it that will go through too. There needs to be thought about whether these things need to be dealt with in this forum.

B Simpson asked if there was anyone that wanted to have further discussion.

**P Evans (0957)** Asked if they could be dated as this may stop discussion/issues. She stated that she is not pointing fingers but that some Executive members do save up the tickets for election time to hand them out. B Simpson replied that although he tends not to use them himself, as he would rather shout someone out of his own pocket than have people think he is abusing Club privileges, he believes that they have their place but if people disagree they should vote for them to go rather than dating them.

**R McSheffrey (3819)** feels that what W Sorenson is trying to achieve with this motion is to show his concern for the financial state of the Club. He agrees that you don't see the shout tickets until election time – he thanked the Club for the tickets he had received previously. B Simpson replied that he felt that if someone gave a member a shout ticket thinking that would buy their vote they are silly because how would you even know that was the outcome.

**P Hobern (2314)** stated that B Simpson had said something along the lines that the hospitality tickets do not cost the Club. B Simpson disagreed and said he did not say that. P Hobern replied that he said something along those lines – that these were beneficial to the Club. B Simpson replied yes he had said they were a member benefit. P Hobern asked if this was a member benefit or an Executive Member benefit. B Simpson replied No that the majority get given to our members. P Hobern replied that the actual cost comes out of the Club general funds so it is a loss. B Simpson stated that it was in the accounts and that from memory it was probably about \$16k for the year. P Hobern replied so it costs the Club. B Simpson replied of course it does there is no such thing as a free lunch – everything costs. B Simpson stated that W Sorenson was not here to defend himself so he is not getting at him but we are talking about a line in the Profit/Loss account that says in 2020 it was \$13k and in 2021 it is \$9501 so it has decreased. The majority of that went to shout a member or a guest or a visitor a drink. From his point of view that is a member benefit. If we look at other member benefits we will find courtesy vehicles which cost \$50k to run, Social activities \$104k, but if we don't do those things we are no longer a Club are we. The pruning of middle lines on the basis that not all members benefit then means we will have to stop all sorts of activities. If someone was to come to him saying that the Executive are all drinking for free with the shout tickets that would be something he would want to nail as President of the Club. He does not believe that is the case and he does believe that shouting the drinks in the manner that they are gives members a benefit and it does cost the Club some money.

**L Rowe(3454)** He believes that everyone attending got free tickets today and anyone that doesn't agree with them can pass them to him. He remembers travelling throughout NZ and visiting Clubs and often being given drink tickets from the Manager on arrival – it is not just our Club that does it and is often seen as a matter of courtesy from visitors.

**MOTION:** That the Club no longer give an allocation of hospitality tickets to Executive Members.

M: R McSheffrey (3819)

S: G Hogg (0253)      FAILED

B Simpson stated after the vote that he can assure the members that there have been discussions within the Executive Committee that times are not what they once were and that they may decide amongst themselves to reduce the allocation or change the way they allocate the tickets for a more appropriate use in tighter times. He appreciates the members leaving that to the Executive to decide rather than a mandatory decision in a forum that he does not think is the right one for these kinds of decisions.

*Motion: All club promotions, i.e. Christmas Hampers, be drawn using membership card number with only brewery sponsored promotions drawn from the barrel. This is to give all members an equal chance, remembering this is a Club not a pub.*

No proposer of seconder from the floor – discussion previously that this was a management issue

*Motion: That the two snooker tables that were removed for the darts tournament in 2019 be replaced.*

**B Harper (3635)** stated that on further consideration the motion was withdrawn as it is considered a management item. B Simpson suggested that they put together a proposal that makes it hard to say no and put it through the normal channels. If you were to rely on this vote annually you could end up with 2 tables next year and then none the year after if that was how the members felt.

B Simpson asked if everyone was happy that all the motions had been covered. No further discussion required.

**CONFIRMATION OF RETURNING OFFICERS:**

B Simpson stated that the Executive Committee have appointed G Meyrick, K Horrack and R Laird as returning officers for the upcoming elections.

**CONFIRMATION OF APPEAL BOARD:**

For the first time in 25 years the appeal board was called upon this financial year so we do need to have one.

**MOTION:** That the incoming members of the Appeal Board be: Gary Meyrick, Michael O'Toole, Colin Sullivan and Tony Marchioni. Fifth member will be appointed by the incoming Executive Committee.

Moved: B Simpson (0007)

Seconded: S Pearce (0299)      CARRIED

**CONFIRMATION OF PATRON:**

B Simpson confirmed once again that C Sullivan was appointed as the Patron of the Club for the rest of his natural life.

**C SULLIVAN (PATRON)** thanked the members for their confirmation of him as Patron. He congratulated the members on the common sense that has been shown today. He had prepared words to say on all the motions presented today but he found they were not necessary. These were not so much as Patron or Life Member but as an everyday member of the Club. This Club is in good heart and is run by efficient methods by the Executive, Management and staff. He congratulates all those people and thanks the members for showing faith in those people today.

B Simpson thanked Toni & May Marchioni and Elizabeth & Peter Karl for their continued visits to members in hospitals and rest homes when they are incapacitated and we are made aware of it. These visits take place wherever possible but are subject to COVID restrictions at times. This year 52 separate visits were made to hospitals & rest homes for a total of 55 patients. Members showed their appreciation by way of a round of applause.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**B Simpson (0007)** discussed proposed/suggested amalgamation of Clubs. HWMC was approached many, many months ago by the Frankton Railway Bowling Club – they are the outdoor bowling club that have resided on Rifle Range Road for many years. They are fading in numbers and finances and decided last year it was time to wind up. They began to investigate what a wind up would entail and what they might or might not do with the proceeds of the sale of their property. They referred to their constitution which said on wind up the funds must be used for the promotion of the sport of Outdoor Bowls or revert to Incorporated Societies. So they have gone in pursuit of a venue/Club with a like minded Outdoor bowls section that suited their members and chose to investigate who they might like to join and where they might like to take that money. This involved Clubs like Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club, Glenview Club and other bowling clubs around Hamilton. They have had several meetings with us and 3 weeks ago they held a Special General Meeting and voted unanimously to seek to amalgamate with the Frankton Junction Bowling Club. Their requirements for that amalgamation are that the funds from the sale of their property in Rifle Range Road go to the benefit of Outdoor Bowls. This is approx. \$1.5M. Because of our foreknowledge of being approached for this we have done some research around the use of the funds to make the bowling green an all weather surface and year round by putting a cover over it. It would be heated and have sound provision made. Possible cost around \$1.2M leaving a fund for future upkeep/maintenance of the new facility. They have resolved that they wish to join the FJBC – B Simpson attended the FJBC meeting 2 weeks ago and they were made aware that that was the resolution made by FRBC. FJBC have now put together their new Executive and B Simpson has indicated to them that their first meeting should involve discussions around whether they welcome the FRBC under some conditions to be provided and when they have done this the HWMC new Executive can at their first Committee put together the presentation to be put on the noticeboard of the main Club informing members of the proposal to amalgamate and we would then call a SGM of our membership to approve the amalgamation and specify the terms under which the funds would be utilized so that there can be no doubt that we weren't committing the HWMC to any further capital expense and at that point he would elaborate on we see the long term benefits to all three organisations going forward. FRBC have about 20 members – 14 are already HWMC members. The business plan will be elaborated on at the SGM.

**P Hassell (4938)** stated that he wished to thank the Staff and the Executive for their work during what has been a very difficult year. He appreciates the efforts made to keep members safe and to get the Club up and running as soon as possible. All precautions taken were exceptional especially when there were other Clubs flouting the rules and although we were criticized for it it was done really well here. We have a very good staff at the moment and management should be congratulated. He has been a member for over 20

