

Notes of Brynamlwg EGM held at the clubhouse on Tuesday 13th January 2015.

A total of 35 members were present.

Committee members in attendance were:

Gwyn Moseley, Chairman; Sonia Jenkins, Secretary; Meirion Derrick, Huw Evans, Madera Veipa.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an explanation for the requirement to call an EGM. The Committee of the club had been reduced to four persons with the recent addition of two extra volunteers; more members were required to join the committee. There had been no club treasurer in post for the last eighteen months; Inntobookwork had been running the financial operations at a considerable cost to the club.

The club has been through a very difficult time with the loss of the Steward, Aled Jones, and the resignation of the chairman. The loss of the Steward resulted in the loss of the provision of meals at the end of July and the closure of the bar at the end of September. The Bar has now reopened with the Student's Union running the bar as a temporary measure until the future of the club is decided.

The Chairman then asked the membership if they wished the club to continue and if so what form should it take in the future or should the club be disbanded. If the club is to continue what do the members want from the club?

Do they want:

1. A place to meet, drink and eat with friends and colleagues at lunch time and evenings.
2. Regular evening culinary and social events,
3. Availability of function rooms and catering for private events
4. Restoration of social and sporting activities
5. Other options.

In response to the chairman's question the membership present voted unanimously that the club should continue. The chairman then gave the membership the following options:

1. Retain the old system with the appointment of a new steward to provide bar and catering services with the overall management and financial responsibilities carried out by the committee.
2. Allow the Students Union Executive to accept responsibility for all activities, including bar and catering services and overall management of the clubhouse and infrastructure.
3. Hybrid of 1 and 2, with the SUE controlling Bar and catering services and the committee retaining responsibility for managing the clubhouse and activities.
4. The Committee to retain the control and the responsibility for the facilities, activities and seek a franchise partner to provide bar and catering services.
5. Is there another option?

If the committee retains responsibility for the management there must be greater support from the membership, both in filling the officer positions and developing activities.

Past experience has shown that divided responsibilities for employed staff have created anomalies. Any future arrangement need these issues to be clearly attributed, preferably under one college authority.

The club owns the fixtures and fittings and has invested in outside works, such as the paving of the car park, and pays the running costs. Any arrangement with the SUE or others must reflect this and a charge applied or costs to be shared.

Any option would require considerable management input and it has been shown that it can result in unwanted consequences when left to voluntary efforts from committee members. It is better to leave commercial activities to those with experience.

The chairman then opened the meeting to take questions and comments from the membership.

There were a number of questions regarding the support from the AU financial or other means of support.

MV gave a brief report on a meeting held with AU in October where the Pro VC, Rebecca Davies, said that AU was committed to the continuation of the SSSC.

Greater publicity was needed to encourage staff to join the club and to use the clubhouse.

Mike Price suggested that the SUE should continue to run the bar and provide catering facilities for a temporary period until the committee can meet the AU and come to an arrangement.

John Glasby, CEO from the SUE said that the club could be viable with the bar and the provision of meals. They would be happy to continue running the club providing that more discussions take place regarding financial situation with the committee and the AU.

There were questions regarding the letting of the club to a franchise and would the AU allow this to happen.

Questions and concerns were raised regarding the responsibility of the provision of heating, lighting, refuse collection costs and the profits of the bar.

The chair replied that all bills are being paid by the club but the present takings of the bar would have to be discussed with SUE.

David McParlin proposed that Option 3 (Hybrid) should be adopted, this was seconded by Jim Worrall. The proposal was put to a vote and there were 29 in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions.

The chairman thanked the members for their comments and suggestions and the committee would proceed with discussion with the AU. The Club still needed a new treasurer, deputy chairman, vice treasurer and also additional members for the committee, term of office was for a period of two years.

Kirsty Jenkins was proposed as the new Treasurer by MV and seconded by SMD, all members present voted for.

Mike Price proposed that the club now moves ahead and see how it progresses and then review the situation. This was seconded by DJ and all were in favour.

He also proposed that with the coming of the Six Nations rugby tournament that the club purchases a new TV set to replace the broken set. Motion seconded by MV with 26 for 1 against.

The Chairman then thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting.