

## East Kilbride Sports Club

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of EK Sports Club**, Thursday 26 January 2017, in main lounge

### Apologies:

1. **Apologies:** Catriona Sherlock; Laura Harrow; David Healy; Eddie Philips; Fergal Burns; Ian Norie; Connie Charkiewicz; David Boag.

Brian Kampman noted the sad loss of the following members or supporters in the last year: Tom Keir, Sandy Stevenson, Alasdair Sutherland, Margaret Lonsdale (Ian's wife), Anne Guthrie and Marianne Strokosch.

2. **Minutes of 2015 EGM** Acceptance - Proposed: Bill Linley; Seconded: Kenny Leinster

**Minutes of 2015 AGM** Acceptance - Proposed: Kenny Leinster; Seconded: Bill Linley

3. **Matters Arising** – none

4. **President's Report**

Brian Kampman delivered his report, assisted by a Power point presentation, which concentrated on the financial issues facing the Club, the good progress made under the new Committee, particularly the significant reduction in debt and the production of a trading profit for the first time in many, many years. He noted the excellent support provided by a small team of dedicated volunteers, particularly Bill Linley & Kenny MacDonald (BillKen) for their maintenance work, assisted by two lots of £200 from each Sports Section. Major expenses had been trimmed to the bone. Cashflow remains a big issue for the Club, particularly given its reliance on external functions to cover running costs, subscriptions by themselves being inadequate.

He noted the hope for the Club to be debt free by Autumn 2017; the need to increase the number of Friday night functions, both by sections and externally; efforts to better promote the club and increase custom and memberships e.g. EK Archery Club re-joining & preliminary discussions with EK Swimming Club; a members Newsletter to improve communications by the Committee; the Code of Conduct; plans for future grant applications; the tricky issues around parking as the Club's car park is too small for our membership. He thanked Laura Harrow & team; Alan Urquhart for his past endeavours as President without the same level of support enjoyed by Brian; Gordon Dryburgh & Lenny Bartwicki & BillKen for the Ladies Changing Room refurbishment; Colin Magee & Malcolm MacDonald for Executive support; and the Stevenson family for their hard work over many years in the kitchen. His full report can be obtained separately on request from the Secretary.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Joe McNally presented Catriona Sherlock's report as Treasurer. He explained Catriona managed the accounts day to day, without any inputs from him. He noted the welcome production of a profit of £10,178 compared to a loss of £7,394 last year. Last year's accounts covered a 16 months' period, this year's had reverted to 12 months. The increase in subs last year had helped, as did cuts in repair expenditure, with the self-reliance philosophy of using BillKen wherever possible. The decrease in debt of some £14,000 was spectacular; the swap to supplies by Tennent's rather than Heineken allied to the absorption of the previous loan in to beer prices meant the club was moving in the right direction. He explained Bar takings were skewed by trading later in the week – trading Monday to Thursday was very modest but we opened as we are a Sports Club. He used a slide to demonstrate the Club's reliance on functions with annual subs insufficient to cover running costs. His professional view remained that subs should go up by at least £50 a year but he understood why this was not attractive to members.

Questions: Susan Miller asked how many barrels of beer the Club needed to buy from Tennent's. Peter Ferrie said that he could not remember the barrelage but it was considerably lower than the Heineken agreement, and Tennent's prices (and service) were better.

The accounts were approved – proposed by Alan Dickie & seconded by Bobby Crombie.

6. **Bar Report** – Peter Ferrie presented the Bar Report, in the absence of Laura Harrow. He noted the continuing growth in the profit level (58%), due to the excellent work by Laura and her team. The switch to Tennent's had also helped this & general management. He presented an analysis of functions held in the club in 2016

	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Total</i>
Members	11	26	6	<b>43 (60%)</b>
External	11	18	-	<b>29 (40%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 (31%)</b>	<b>44 (61%)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>72</b>

<b>Cancellations</b>	-	-	<b>18 (20%)</b>
----------------------	---	---	-----------------

Cancelled functions were a concern, depriving the Club of an estimated £27,000 in revenue, hence the introduction of a £100 deposit. New rules for kitchen use were still not being adhered to by all – food must be clearly labelled including its expiry date, or bar staff will throw it out.

Questions: Peter Ferrie confirmed there were no details of the reasons for cancellations. Darrin Marriott suggested that section functions were often poorly attended & the Club should encourage sections to take their events outside the Club. It was noted that such an approach would run counter to trying to get the sections to use the club more, although there is a preference for section functions on Friday evenings if possible. Colin Banks suggested running functions open to all sections. The Newsletter could help publicise events. Susan Miller suggested the club reconsider hosting 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday parties. Peter Ferrie said the concern was our ability to police underage drinking, a concern held by other venues. It was agreed however that the Committee would consider whether a change in policy might help boost the number of Friday functions. Colin Magee & Laura Harrow had been tasked with exploring ideas for increasing Friday night functions. Brian Kampman confirmed there were no plans for a kitchen franchise but the club could provide details of external caterers if section wished to organise their own catering as part of an event.

## 7. Auditor's Report

Joe McNally said that the Accounts were a true and fair view of the position of the Club. He re-emphasised that he is not involved in the day to day affairs of the Club, only the audit of the accounts.

## 8. Election of Auditor

Joe McNally's continued appointment was approved: proposed by Malcolm MacDonald, seconded by Bill Linley.

## 9. Election of Tellers & Scrutineers – none.

## 10. Constitutional Amendments – none.

## 11. Conveners' Reports:

**Membership Report** - Bill Linley presented the Membership statistics. Membership is up overall with strong figures from Rugby and Tennis. The growth in Tennis junior membership is a direct result of the hard work they have been putting in. Cricket numbers are down – something reported throughout the West of Scotland – with growing evidence that weather cancellation of so many training nights and games is a major factor. Social numbers are also well down – mainly due to the fact we no longer demand membership for external bookings. If Corporate members were stripped out, the Club has 527 members of which just over 50% (265) are juniors. Our conversion rate from juniors to intermediates remains poor. All Sections need to work harder at keeping the young people they have invested so much time effort and money on.

Questions: It was confirmed the Camera Club had no members or voting rights; they simply hire the main lounge on for 2-3 hours Monday evenings during the winter. The Licensing Officer had confirmed that one did not need to be a Club member to hire a room, and that there are no restrictions on the Club advertising itself as a venue. Bookings require a £100 deposit – the Club had stopped making external hirers members of the Club, partly as other venues were competing hard by offering payback on bar takings. The Club applies higher bar prices to external functions. The Club does plan to make use of the white membership card compulsory to obtain members' "discounted prices" but the original plan to go live with this last September had been disrupted by software problems with the new till system that have only just been resolved. Laura Reddick felt strongly that the club offered no facilities for junior members e.g. no board games, the Committee or TV Room was never open so they could not plug in X boxes etc. In response, Malcolm MacDonald said that the Club's major focus was on external sport; that finance had thus far been a constraint but the Committee were open to ideas and suggestions from anyone and he was happy to meet separately to discuss ways the Club could improve the facilities it offers all its members, particularly juniors.

**Property Convener** – Bill Linley also presented the Property Report. He noted the clubhouse is old, and we would apply sticking plasters until we can identify funds for a new building, focusing mainly on those parts anyone hiring the club for events will see on entry. Surprise tasks appear regularly and often get in the way of planned maintenance. Successful work included: restored & redecorated Committee Room, with new blinds, a TV and potential use as a Conference Room for hire with much hard work by Sheila Kampman. The Foyer had been redecorated, with new lighting & entry doors, and 2 information TV screens erected; The office had been redecorated with new carpet tiles, walls repainted, radiator and door repaired. Much work had been done in the kitchen, particularly on the extractor fan, cleaned & repaired at a fraction of the cost of one quote for the work; a cleaner's cupboard had been created behind the bar, with a new sink; LED floodlights, with Harriers' financial support, had been installed outside. The Ladies Changing room had been refurbished, with £1,000 finance from Scottish Rugby & labour from BillKen, Gordon Dryburgh & Lenny Bartwicki. Longer term, the aim was to focus on refurbishment of the gents' changing rooms and the small lounge. Bill appealed for others to help maintain the property – BillKen were up every Monday and Thursday, other volunteers are always welcome.

## Section Annual Reports

Reports were delivered by the various Section representatives on their year's achievements. These are available on request from the Secretary of the Sports Club, Malcolm MacDonald.

### 12. Subscriptions for 2017

Brian Kampman explained the two options considered by the Committee for 2017 subscriptions, neither of which involved any change in actual fees:

- i. Front Load membership payments e.g. restrict staging to six monthly payments, rather than 12; or
- ii. No increase in SC fees, but all adult members to pay £30 on their "bar credit" by 31 March in the new membership year.

He invited Russell Couper of the Harriers to explain why the Harriers supported option 1. Russell argued option 1 was economically more sound; once the credit had been paid, there was no extra money being spent in the Club. Harriers had lost members because of the earlier bar credit & had taken two years to rebuild their membership numbers. For each member lost, the Club would lose £112. Front loading had no impact on membership numbers and members would continue drinking.

Jim Blackwood noted that some younger members would struggle to pay their membership over a six-month period; while the Harriers might be able to cover such a shortfall, rugby with much larger numbers could not. One of the advantages of sections paying across 12 months had been a more assured cashflow for the Treasurer, secure of a guaranteed minimum sum each month. It was also meant to encourage members to come to the bar more regularly, whether for a hot beverage, bottle of water or alcoholic drink.

Brian Kampman reminded members that membership fees alone did not allow the Club to cover its costs. Cashflow was a continuing challenge while the Club is paying off debts at £2,500 a month, partly due to previous failures to adhere to agreed payment plans due to poor bar sales. The anticipated £9,000 injection from the bar credit would provide a breathing space for the Treasurer to try to manage debts & other costs. The Club would make £4,500 profit from the credit; it is the least painful way to get a cash injection and asked how members would feel if instead we were seeking an increase of £15 in annual subs. It was agreed members could, if they wish, pay more than £30 on their card; equally sports sections could pay on behalf of their members if they wished and receive a section card with the value of the credit.

It was suggested that an option 3 could be that sections "did their own thing". But a member of the Harriers noted that not all the Harriers agreed with Russell Couper's preference for option 1 – he personally favoured Option 2.

The proposals went to a vote as follows:

Option 1 – For 7, Against 52.  
Option 2 – For 52, Against 7.

Option 2 was carried.

### 13. Election of:

#### (a) Office Bearers

Malcolm MacDonald said that existing Office Bearers were all willing to stand for re-election. No other nominations had been received so all (listed below) were re-elected

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
President	Brian Kampman	Malcolm MacDonald	Peter Ferrie
Vice President	Colin Magee	Brian Kampman	Bill Linley
Treasurer	Catriona Sherlock	Brian Kampman	Malcolm MacDonald
Secretary	Malcolm MacDonald	Bill Linley	Brian Kampman

#### (b) Conveners

Malcolm MacDonald said that existing Conveners were all willing to stand for re-election. No other nominations had been received so all (listed below) were re-elected. Last year, the Property Convener position had been vacant – Bill Linley had generously agreed to take on this role in 2017 so, with no other nominees, he was also elected. All Conveners listed below:

2017 Conveners			
Bar	Peter Ferrie	Peter Hagerty	Malcolm MacDonald
Property	Bill Linley	Malcolm MacDonald	Brian Kampman
Membership	Bill Linley	Brian Kampman	Peter Ferrie
Ways and Means	Laura Harrow	Brian Kampman	Bill Linley

**Section Reps** - no change as all are identified separately by section Committee's or AGMs.

Current Section Reps		*Elected/nominated separately by sections through their Committees/AGMs.
<b>Cricket</b>	Sheila Kampman*	
<b>Harriers</b>	Kenny Leinster*	
<b>Tennis</b>	Colin Magee*	
<b>Rugby</b>	Jim Blackwood*	
<b>Golf</b>	Vacant	
<b>EK Community Trust</b>	Ian Aitchison*	

**14. Motions in Writing** – none.

**15. Any Other Competent Business**

Elaine Martin expressed concern that the defibrillator, for which five sections had each contributed £288, had not yet been purchased. She sought reassurance that the Club was buying one and outlined dismay that the money donated through My Donate had been channelled towards routine bills. This was not the purpose of the contributions and sections should have been consulted before such a decision had been taken. The only reason for funding it through the Club had been to secure the refund of the VAT element, otherwise the defibrillator could have been bought direct some time ago. It was disappointing that there had been no feedback.

Brian Kampman said that the issue had been discussed with Section Reps at Committee so there had been no attempt to disguise the Club's plight. There had been a significant shortfall in expected income and the Treasurer felt she had no choice to avoid penalty charges on some debts. Other parties had also had to wait for payment as there were insufficient funds to cover all our liabilities. Since the last Committee meeting, the Club had received early payment of January subscriptions from three sports sections such that there were now sufficient funds to pay for the defibrillator. It had been ordered (26 Jan) & should be delivered within seven days.

Scott Wylie felt that the Club's Management Committee had been elected to run the club and clearly felt that there had been no other approach.

Malcolm MacDonald acknowledged that the Committee had learnt several lessons from the defib experience. He had also been surprised that the funds had been diverted elsewhere but recognised that the Treasurer had a thankless task trying to juggle our restricted finances. He said that historically we had incurred heavy penalty charges when defaulting on VAT & PAYE repayment plans, and Scottish Power tended to dramatically increase our debt repayments without consultation because of prior defaults. It had also taken some five weeks for the section donations to come in, after about six weeks to consult section Committees about the original proposal. With hindsight, had it all come in together there would have been less risk of diversion. So, the Committee fully backed the Treasurer's decision to use the defibrillator money to pay other bills. Lessons learnt – the My Donate money is channelled in to our operational bank account i.e. it is not ringfenced. The Committee will consider changing these arrangements to ensure future payments go in to a separate account, and we have a clearer process should we feel we need to dip in to it for any reason. So, in noting the frustration and disappointment expressed, the Committee offered its apologies for the delay in the defibrillator's purchase.

Others felt that the Club should not be reliant on the defibrillator money to pay bills. Brian Kampman reminded members that a large part of the AGM had been devoted to explaining how annual subs did not provide sufficient funds to meet running costs & we relied heavily on function income and bar sales, both of which were very variable.

Ian Aitchison said that members should trust the Management Committee's decision. Andy Kean expressed a similar view, as the Club was clearly in dire straits at the time.

Brian Kampman concluded the discussion and meeting by re-emphasising that we need money across the bar, expecting others to come up with solutions was not helpful and all ideas to help improve the Club's finances would be given serious consideration.

The meeting closed at 9.38pm.

EKSC Secretary  
29 January 2017