

DEVIZES CAMERA CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held May 23rd 2023

The meeting opened at 7-45 p.m at the Rugby Club (formerly Sports Club), Devizes, with members having the option to attend in person or remotely via Zoom.

The agenda, minutes of the previous meetings, committee reports and submitted resolutions had been emailed to all members.

1. **Apologies**

The meeting was attended by Steve Hardman plus 27 members in person and 2 on Zoom. Apologies were received from David Wilkinson and David Weeks

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 17th May 2022** The minutes from the 2020 AGM had previously been circulated. Approval was proposed by Sue Wadman, seconded by Jen Skjoldboro, and approved unanimously

3. **Approval of Minutes of the EGM held on 25th October 2022.** The minutes from the EGM had previously been circulated. Approval was proposed by Wendy Weller, seconded by Heidi Massey, and approved unanimously

4. **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.

5. **Annual Reports of the Committee** The Officers reports for 2022-23 had previously been circulated. There were no questions or points raised.

6. **Resolutions**

Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 were interlinked, and so discussion and voting are reported as a bloc at the end of the text of Resolution 3.

Resolution 1: To be decided on a simple majority of votes cast. Proposed by Barbara Jones, Seconded by Dave Gray, on behalf of the Committee

Members currently pay an annual subscription and a weekly subscription for each meeting attended. It is proposed to consolidate these into a single annual subscription, payable either in full at the start of the season in September, or in two equal instalments at the start of the season and again at the start of the new calendar year.

Amendment To Resolution 1: Proposed by Barbara Jones, Seconded by Dave Gray, on behalf of the Committee.

In recognition of the negative impact of Resolution 1 on members who are infrequent attenders, It is proposed to offer members the option of paying the Consolidated Annual Subscription set out in Resolution 2 or separate Annual and Weekly Subscriptions as set out in Resolution 3. However, to simplify the number of payment options for the

Treasurer, all payments when attending the meeting in person shall be either in cash or contactless card. Payment by cheque or by monthly standing order will no longer be possible. Members paying per meeting attended by Zoom should continue to pay by BACS Bank Transfer as now.

Resolution 2 (if Resolution 1 is carried): To be decided on a simple majority of votes cast. Proposed by Barbara Jones, Seconded by Dave Gray, on behalf of the Committee

It is proposed to set the consolidated annual subscription for 2023-24 at £100 for adult members, and £60 for members who are under the age of 21 on 1st September 2023. It is also proposed to set the subscription for Life Members to £50, to cover the weekly subscription element of the new combined subscription.

New Members joining after 1st January will pay a reduced rate of £50, or £30 if under the age of 21 on 1st January 2024.

Resolution 3 (if Resolution 1 is not carried): To be decided on a simple majority of votes cast. Proposed by Barbara Jones, Seconded by Dave Gray, on behalf of the Committee

It is proposed to set the Annual Subscription for 2023-24 at £50 for adult members, and £30 for members who are under the age of 21 on 1st September 2023.

New Members joining after 1st January will pay a reduced rate of £30, or £15 if under the age of 21 on 1st January 2024.

In addition, a charge of £3 will be payable for each meeting attended.

Steve Hardman explained that the overall rationale for these resolutions was to increase the income to the club to cover the increase in the Rugby Club charges for use of our meeting rooms, and also to simplify the Treasurer's job by reducing the number of payment options for members.

Robert Harvey was concerned that a consolidated annual + weekly subscription would be a painful up-front payment which would deter people from joining. He had recently visited Ashford Camera Club in Kent, who has seen membership decline since adopting a single annual subscription model. He also thought that weekly subscriptions, besides being less painful, will also give the club a higher income. It was also fairer, so that those who gained the most by attending club meetings also paid the most.

Gerald Clarke warned that payment for a consolidated annual subscription, payable in two instalments, could allow members to leave half way through the year leaving the club out of pocket.

Peter Tasker emphasised the problem of multiple payment options for the person taking money on the door at club nights, and endorsed the move to simplify these.

The first vote was on the amended Resolution 1, and this was unanimously rejected. This meant that Resolution 2 was also rejected.

The debate was then about whether the amounts proposed in Resolution 3 would be sufficient to cover our payments to the Rugby Club.

Sue Wadman asked whether we had considered the potential increase in per meeting charges we might have to pay in 2024, since this was one of the unknowns. Dave Gray

explained that our expected expenditure for 2023-24 was approximately £4700, whereas the proposed subscription changes assuming existing membership and attendance levels would yield approximately £5700. Frank Collins also noted that in the unlikely event of a shortfall, we have around £7000 in reserve.

Peter Tasker asked for confirmation that people would no longer be able to pay by cheque, or by monthly standing order. This was confirmed. However, those attending remotely on Zoom would still be expected to pay by bank transfer.

A vote was then held and Resolution 3 was carried unanimously.

Resolution 4: To be decided by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. Proposed by Dave Gray, Seconded by Steve Hardman on behalf of the Committee.

It is proposed to delete the sentence in our Constitution paragraph 2.3 which reads: *In addition, all members shall ensure that they become members of the Sports Club, Devizes, or such other venues as shall from time to time comprise the regular meeting place of the club.*

Steve Hardman explained that the Sports Club no longer exists, so this sentence in the Constitution is redundant. The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Resolution 5 - To be decided by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. Proposed by Dave Gray, Seconded by Steve Hardman on behalf of the Committee.

Paragraph 3.1 states that *'The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Competition Secretary and Battle Secretary, together with up to five additional members.'* This therefore specifies a maximum Committee size of 11. It is proposed to add Membership Secretary, Publicity Secretary and Technical Officer to the list of named officers, and to reduce number of additional members to 3, making the maximum Committee size 12.

Steve Hardman explained that this will bring the Constitution up to date and in keeping with current requirements for running the club. The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Resolution 6 - To be decided by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. Proposed by Dave Gray, Seconded by Steve Hardman on behalf of the Committee.

It is proposed to delete the sentence in paragraph 3.2 which reads: *Unless the Club in General Meeting shall otherwise decide, no member may serve on the Committee for longer than four years consecutively in the same role.*

Steve Hardman explained that removing the limit of the time officers can serve in a particular role will improve continuity and avoid loss of experience.

Robert Harvey thought it was healthy for the club to insist on rotating Committee roles to bring in fresh ideas. However, Dave Gray said that in practice, the same people remained on the Committee, and just moved on to a different officer post.

The vote for the Resolution was 32 in favour and 2 against, and so the Resolution was carried.

7. Election of Officers

The following had been nominated to serve on the Committee for 2023-24:

Position	Person Nominated	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chair	David Wilkinson	Steve Hardman	Dave Gray
Secretary	Dave Gray	Mike Saunders	Frank Collins
Treasurer	Barbara Jones	Dave Gray	Steve Hardman
Programme Secretary	Frank Collins	David Wilkinson	Dave Gray
Competition Secretary 1	Gerald Clarke	Richard Jones	Mike Saunders
Competition Secretary 2	Richard Jones	Dave Gray	Gerald Clarke
Battle Secretary	Dave Gray	Frank Collins	Gerald Clarke
Membership Secretary	Caroline Wright	David Wilkinson	Frank Collins
Publicity Secretary	Bridget Codrington	Frank Collins	Gerald Clarke
Technical Officer	Richard Jones	Dave Gray	David Wilkinson
Committee Member 1	Jennifer Skjoldbro	David Wilkinson	Dave Gray
Committee Member 2	Mike Saunders	Richard Jones	Dave Gray
Committee Member 3			

There were no other nominations, and so the persons nominated were elected en bloc unanimously.

8. Handover to the New Chairman

As the new Chairman, David Wilkinson, was absent from the AGM, Steve Hardman continued to chair the AGM.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Frank Collins proposed a vote of thanks to Steve Hardman for a very successful five years as Chairman of the club, especially steering the club through the difficult years of the pandemic.

9.2 Richard Atkinson proposed a vote of thanks to the whole 2022-23 Committee

9.3 Frank Collins proposed a special vote of thanks to Dave Eagle for his technical solutions introduced during the pandemic which, with no understatement, had saved the club's very existence; witness the number of other local clubs which had folded during this time. Craig Purvis then proposed, and Mike Saunders seconded, that Dave Eagle be made a Life Member, in recognition of his services. This was carried unanimously.

10. Close of Formal Business

The meeting closed at 8.33pm