

Broadstone Royal British Legion Club Ltd

Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting held on 10th January 2024 at

7.30 pm at Legion House, Tudor Road, Broadstone, Dorset

1. Introduction: Tony Clarke welcomed members to the 77th AGM of the Broadstone Royal British Legion Club Ltd.

2. Exhortation: by Len Bucknall

3. Apologies for Absence – Mark Jefferson (MJ)

No apologies were received

4. Approval of minutes of Previous AGM – MJ

The minutes of the previous AGM (January 2023) were proposed for approval by John Lewis, seconded by Gary Slade and unanimously approved by all those present.

5. Committee Nominations – candidates to introduce themselves (MJ)

Tony Clarke (Chairman), Mark Jefferson (Secretary) and Paul Oliver (Treasurer) were nominated unopposed.

Donna Brown and Sarah Wilkins of existing committee stood down this year

Gary Slade and Mark Aldridge have a further year after being elected in 2023.

New nominations were Liz Fletcher, Ian Boucher, Jon Wright and Shannon Harris.

It was unanimously approved by all those present that the above named were elected.

6. Collection of Voting Slips for counting

Not needed.

7. Chairman's Report – Tony Clarke (TC)

- **Club Lease**

- We are now paying the new rent of £16,000 a year
- The lease is up for review in March 2024, to start new agreement in 2025. We have been told this will only be upwards and initial contact with Adrew Morgan suggests 6% of gross. As part of those negotiations we will be presenting our accounts and turnover during this period to try and bring the price down. We will keep the members informed as negotiations commence
- **Land Registry**
 - Our land registry claim for the snooker room and rear car park was supposed to be well and truly under way but unfortunately, the solicitor company we are using keeps changing their solicitors and the process has had to start again. However, we believe we are further forward than before. Tony is in regular contact with the solicitors and we have provided further paperwork to support our case. Mainly down to the council, it is a slow long process.
- **Restaurant**
 - At the last AGM we had nothing to report on other than a closed kitchen and failed franchise. In February, we decided to take on Ellie and Jordan who I believe have been a total success. Day by day numbers, parties, private functions etc have risen through the year. This has also encourage lots of new members which has been great for club and restaurant. For this we thank them and look forward to more to come in 2024
- **Bar Manager**
 - Simon completed his probationary period and was confirmed during Feb 2023. Unfortunately, he has now resigned and the new committee will determine a way forward for the day to day management of the club in the immediate future.
- **Club Activities**
 - We continue to have 2 snooker teams and are pleased to welcome 2 new darts teams and a pool team. We are also now sponsoring Broadstone FC Club who now use the club as their home base and host their opponents on a regular basis. This has all enhanced our revenue
- **Building/Maintenance**
 - Snooker room roof has been repaired and relaid
 - Remainder of the roof has had extensive patching and repairs
 - Carpets professional cleaned
 - Viewing hole in the wall near the snooker room created

- Lots of maintenance done on cellar, windows/doors with more planned for this year
- **Volunteers**
 - We still require volunteers with helping to run raffles & events. Even with the addition of the new committee members, extra volunteers are still required.
- **TC extended his thanks to the following**
 - All the bar staff, Lyn and Dennis for their dedication, hard work and for sticking with us through the difficult times of the last few years.
 - Chris Burt for the General Knowledge quiz
 - Sarah Wilkins for Sports Quiz, Race Nights and Christmas Draw
 - Julie Clarke for the entertainment
 - Mark Aldridge for his maintenance of the club behind the scenes
 - All the committee for their continued hard work in running the club

8. Secretary's Report – Mark Jefferson

- **Changes**
 - We implemented the new fully integrated Club Control system just after the AGM last year.
 - Along with making our management a lot simpler including renewing membership at the bar, it also allows members to load up their card and use it for payments over the pay
 - Credit Card machine has been changed again (a lot faster now and slightly cheaper) and is integrated to the till system
 - We introduced a Juke Box in the Autumn from which the club keeps 50% of the takings – the Sky box at the pool table end of the club is also plugged in the juke box to take advantage of the new speakers and zone system
 - We also upgraded our existing amp and ceiling speakers – we bought a 2nd hand one from ebay and our thanks to John Anderson for doing the upgrade and fitting the new speakers.
 - Mark thanked Donna, Julie and Simon for maintaining the Facebook page
- **Members**
 - Currently stand at 1076 at end of September (and has increased since) which is about 10% greater than last year.
 - Special mention to Sarah Thompson for maintaining the membership records

- MJ reminded members that RBL membership and Club membership are mutually separate. RBL membership is mandatory and its fee is **NOT** included in the Club fee. Checks are carried out and Club memberships can be suspended if there is not a corresponding RBL membership.
- **Events**
 - Race Nights very successful – they will run at least twice this year although we need a new DVD !
 - Hoping to arrange a race day this year – discussing with Marstons whether they can help us with tickets etc
 - We welcome any ideas for future events – especially anyone who can help us run them
- **Dorset RBL Clubs Association**
 - We have combined with the other 11 clubs in Dorset to form an association and we meet every 2 months.
 - This proved useful when negotiating with Dransfields where all the clubs got a discount going forward.
 - Had success in sharing ideas and processes with many of the clubs saving money by copying others (we changed credit card provider for example)
 - We will continue to attend and hopefully this group will provide further ideas and savings in the future

9. Finance Report and Re-Appointment of Auditors – Paul Oliver

- **Overall Numbers**
 - Operating profit of £21,284 for 2022-2023 (compared to loss of £21K last year)
 - Shareholders Fund stands at £280,710 (compared to £259,300 last year)
 - Massive £14K refund from council contributed to that number
 - Increase in energy bills will affect us going forward until June when we can renew
- **Savings**
 - Lots of free internal maintenance by committee and members
 - Constantly looking at changing suppliers (electricity and gas this summer 2024)
 - Had 4 months 100% profit from Dransfields (will have 3 more in upcoming year)

- No BroadBand & telephone charges since Feb 2023 as Sky compensated us for messing up the move from TalkTalk – will have to pay again from May
- Credit Card machine changed again
- Moved to monthly pay – will reduce accountancy fees
- **Bar Prices**
 - Prices were increased on 2nd Jan for the first time since Oct 2022

Auditors

During the AGM in 2020, it was voted that we would no longer use Auditors and therefore this has not happened for the Year ending 30th September 2023

During discussion about the finances, a couple of suggestions were raised by members:

- 1 – Richard Everitt proposed that we investigate the possibility of solar panels for the club
- 2 – Jon Wright proposed that we introduce packets of biscuits/chocolates behind the bar

Both ideas will be submitted to new committee for discussion

10. Election of Arbiters – Mark Jefferson

The existing arbiters were proposed again as Club arbiters for the next year.

Richard Hutley – proposed by Paul Oliver
 Mark Hayward – proposed by Colin Campbell
 Kim Rabbets – proposed by Colin Campbell

Seconded by Mark Jefferson and unanimously approved by all those present.

11. Announcement of New Committee – Tony Clarke

Having been duly elected the Broadstone RBL Club Ltd Committee for 2024 will be:

- (a) President - Leonard Bucknall
- (b) Chairman - Tony Clarke
- (c) Vice Chairman - VACANCY
- (d) Secretary - Mark Jefferson
- (e) Treasurer – Paul Oliver
- (f) Committee Member – Mark Aldridge

- (g) Committee Member – Ian Boucher
- (h) Committee Member – Gary Slade
- (i) Committee Member – Shannon Harris
- (j) Committee Member – Liz Fletcher
- (k) Committee Member – Jon Wright

12. Close of Business – Tony Clarke

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

Mark Jefferson

Club Secretary

16th January 2024