

# **BIRMINGHAM INTER VARSITY CLUB LIMITED**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT:**

Alan Muddiman (Chair); Rose Huish (Secretary); Frank Dawson (Treasurer); Pete Norris (Webmaster); Dave Elliott (Weekends); Janet Blick (Social Secretary); John Gregory (Sport); Andy Turton (VP); Pete Howe (VP); Maggie Whitlock (VP)

The meeting was quorate with 43 members present at the meeting in total.

#### **1. Apologies**

Joyce Mellors, Pat Pitcock, Karen Thomason, Anthony Hayes, Robert Walker, Chris Evans, Barry Allen, Marie McMannus, Jan Horn, Kay Abrol, Pat Pemberton, Sue Wright, Ann Smith, Bernie Muddiman, Pete Hanna, John Smith, Chris Cummins.

#### **2. Minutes of the AGM held 23 September 2010**

Proposer: Pete Howe    Seconder: Ray Parry - The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Financial Report 2010 – 2011**

The meeting welcomed the club's accountant, Helen Palmer. Ray Parry wanted to know more about the iBike Scheme, (not mentioned in financial report), no finances listed related to this. Pete Howe, iBike organiser, reported that income this year amounted to approx.. £100: he was due £60 from Pete Brooke, Barbara Wallace owes money, and he has £10 from bookings. Pete Howe suggested that the 3 bikes (purchased at the start of the scheme) should be sold on to members, and that new models be purchased. Maggie Whitlock asked what the original cost was – PH though about £700. Also helmets and consumables had been obtained. Helen Palmer: 'What financial activities impact do we have from the iBike scheme as the loan of bikes brought money in, but the initial outlay was much more than £100?' Keith Budd thought that it depended when the money had come in. Frank Dawson pointed out that fixed assets were shown on pages 7 & 9 (though no detail specified – RH). Ray Parry remarked that this made it difficult to track these items in the finances, and all expenditure ought to be accounted for. PH acknowledged that he had been slack at keeping records, due to the other activities he had organised during the year. Graham Hankins pointed out that the bikes were purchased to enable members who did not own bikes to participate in cycling activity, in this respect the scheme had been successful. Keith Budd asked about other purchases of fixed assets – Frank Dawson said that a new printer had been obtained.

## 5. Consideration of Motion 1 (Ordinary motion) – Approval of Accounts for 2010-2011

The chairman then moved to a vote to accept the Accounts:

Proposer: Andy Turton    Seconder: Alan Muddiman.    The vote was carried by all present on a show of hands.

## 6. Consideration of Motions

Amendments to motions 2a and 2d were proposed which had the effect of withdrawing motion 2d and amending motion 2a to read as follows:

2a: *(Original Motion 2d in italics)*

- a] That it is acknowledged that the Company has more financial assets than it practically needs and that structured consideration should be given to how they can best be used to improve Birmingham Inter-Varsity Club for the majority of its members.
- b] The Board give consideration, as a matter of urgency, to :
  - i] what it & the wider membership wants to achieve over the coming years;
  - ii] how it will work towards these achievements; and
  - iii] individual costed initiatives to support these proposals.
- c] *That a small Working Party be set up to investigate the possibilities of better utilising the significant financial capital that the club has amassed over the years for the betterment of the club's activities*
- d] *That this Working Party's investigations should include :*
  - i] whether better investment should be undertaken to provide a financial return;*
  - ii] purchase or timeshare of a canal narrow boat for the use of members.(and possibly other AIVC groups?)*
  - iii] the purchase or lease of a mobile home/caravan for the use of members*
- e] *That the Working Party should obtain such professional advice as it deems desirable. The investigation should include how the investment (financial or physical) should be managed so that the work does not devolve to a particular individual.*
- f] That the Board
  - i] give consideration to how the wider membership might contribute towards this work; and
  - ii] to seek formally to support **any proposals** by either :
    - a formal General Meeting or

a majority of members by way of a poll.”

It was decided to propose motions 2b and 2c, then return to the amended 2a/2d single motion.

**Motion 2b – (ordinary motion) That the club should seek, over a number of years, to maintain the amount of Capital that the club has.**

Rose Huish spoke in favour of this motion, pointing out that members were in favour of expenditure which generated interesting events, but that the tradition in BIVC had always been that members make an appropriate contribution towards events to create a ‘break-even’ result. Financing events did provide a ‘safety net’ in the case of outlay which turned out to run at an occasional loss, for example the Wed/Fri badminton. What members did not want was a profligate ‘free-for-all’ with little accountability, which may cause club funds to be frittered away.

**Motion 2c – (ordinary motion) That the club should seek, on average, over a number of years, to reduce the amount of capital that the club has by spending the money on good value projects that benefit the widest possible range of members.**

Pete Norris spoke in favour of this motion, encouraging members to support expenditure which made the club better, for example the party grant had been increased to £100. Too few activities has had the result in the past of causing a decline in membership: an 8% drop in numbers was experienced in 2006 but ‘the money’ was retained. Even with expenditure of £3,000 pa, it would take 10 years to whittle down the £30,000 ‘ring-fenced’ sum. He quoted the example of AIVC - which has recently reduced their annual income as this was a greater sum (£20,000) than that needed for operating costs (£12,000).

This motion was opened up to general discussion, with the consensus of views supporting the use of club funds as proposed in 2c; the Committee should (and does) have the authority to sanction small amounts of expenditure (up to £3000 max in any one year) to encourage a wide range of activities. A clear strategy is needed to sanction a major expenditure – any such proposals would need to be put to an EGM; John Pitcock reminded members that expenditure of the ring-fenced funds must be put to a ballot of members. The Working Party, proposed in the amended motion (2a/2d,) would be charged with developing a strategy and costing ideas, e.g. the narrow boat hire, or mobile home purchase, or any other ‘big, high-cost’ projects. The Chairman then moved the meeting to a vote on the motions as follows:

2b – (ordinary motion) proposed by Rose Huish, seconded by John Gregory

The motion was defeated on a show of hands;

2c – (ordinary motion) proposed by Pete Norris, seconded by Alan Muddiman

The motion was carried on a show of hands;

an amendment to this motion was proposed by Alan Muddiman and seconded by Brian Roberts to allow the Committee to spend small amounts of money up to a total of £3000 during this year on events including promotions to increase membership;

this amendment was carried on a show of hands, with a few abstentions and two votes against.

The Chairman asked for a proposer (Andy Turton) and seconder (Sarah Sharland) to accept the amendment to motions 2a/2d:

This vote was carried on show of hands, though one member voted against.

This led to the amended motion 2a/2d – proposed by Sarah Sharland, seconded by Ray Parry, being put to a vote, carried overwhelmingly on a show of hands.

### **Motion 2e – (ordinary motion) that the base membership fee should remain at £45**

Proposed by Frank Dawson, seconded by Andy Turton

A few members voiced their disapproval at the amount, registering dissatisfaction that this fee had been proposed again; Andy Turton pointed out that most members received a £10 'weekend voucher' redeemable against the cost of a weekend away (this benefit only if early subs payment is made – RH); John Stephenson reminded members that a further £10 is saved if a member only received an e-Bulletin, bringing the cost down to £25.

The motion was carried on a show of hands.

### **Motion 3a – (ordinary motion) Ex-officio members to be retained as committee members, submitted by John Smith.**

As no-one proposed this motion, it fell without a vote.

**Motion 3b – (Special motion) that the last Chairman, last Treasurer, and last Secretary no longer be ex-officio members of the committee.** (to effect this, section 8(e) of the Standing Orders should be modified, removing "and" from section 8(e) (a) and deleting all of section 8(e) (b) ).

Discussion took place about the numbers on the committee *with* the ex-officios included – there was a potential presence of 8 directors and 4 VPs *without* their inclusion, sufficient for discussion & effective discharge of business; the alternative viewpoint supported their retention as having perceived value to ensure continuity from year to year.

Proposed by Dave Elliott, seconded by Pete Norris

A paper ballot took place, resulting in motion 3b falling, results being 20 in favour, 14 against, 2 abstentions and 3 spoilt slips.

**Motion 3c (Special motion) that to facilitate the appointment of an external celebrity President, the position of President should no longer involve being a member of the committee.** (To this effect, the Standing Orders should be amended at section 8(e) (a) by deleting the words 'President and' ).

The proposer, Andy Turton, pointed out that this appointment would give the club kudos, that this person could be named on BIVC publicity and any charity fund-raising which the club undertook. Barbara Green thought this changed the ethos of BIVC – if support for charities is what we are about, this is a change from being purely a social activities club. However the motion is about removing the requirement for a President to attend committee. The example of a celebrity named was Joanne Malin, Radio WM presenter.

Proposer – Andy Turton, seconder Gill Curley

The motion was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

### **Committee Re-organisation:**

#### **Motion 4a (Special motion) that a new type of club position be created called an 'Elected Assistant'.**

Proposed by Pete Norris, seconded by Dave Elliott

Pete Norris gave the rationale for this motion by pointing out that if carried, these appointees would not have an obligation to attend meetings, but would have a say about the specific functions they represented. Current Directors believe that 10 directors is too many, and that this proposal would not reduce the effectiveness of the committee's work, but would reduce the numbers on the committee. Keith Budd pointed out that nominated assistants to the committee already exist, currently there are 10 such positions; he thought that this change may make it harder to be an assistant, since these positions are required to be filled by vote at an AGM. Gill Curley asked if we had nominations for these posts for this year, in the event of this motion being carried? Dave Elliott clarified that at this stage this is an idea, a proposal, though the fall-back is that we can still appoint assistants if needed, after the AGM.

The proposal was put to a vote as follows:

In favour – 20; against – 8; abstentions – 5. The motion falls, hence the following 4 motions,

**(Special motions) 4b, 4c & 4d also fall as they depended on 4a being carried.**

**Motion 4e – (Special motion) that a new Directorship, the position of New Members Officer, be created; this person will be responsible for the handling of enquiries about membership, recruiting prospective members, and all aspects of prospective membership up to the point of full membership, or cessation of holding prospective membership.**

(If carried, Appendix A of the Standing Orders to be amended under the list of Directors.)

Proposer – Pete Norris; seconder – Frank Dawson

Pete Norris explained that this role would subsume the responsibility of Publicity/ALO – it is a coherent and discrete aspect of the committee's work, which has been unofficially operated this year to support Frank in his dual roles of Membership and Treasurer. Ray Parry queried why this job could not be carried out by an assistant? Pete Howe said the job was hard and could not be allocated to an assistant. Rose Huish expanded on the earlier point that the job had been part of the committee's organisation: it had been carried out very effectively this year by Pete Norris in addition to his role as Webmaster – it is complementary

to the role of membership secretary, but is of crucial importance in generating increased membership, and justifies Director status.

The motion was put to the vote and carried with one abstention.

**Motion 4f (Special motion) that the committee position of Publicity/ALO be abolished.**

To effect this, the definition of this role be removed from Appendix A of the Standing Orders.

Proposer – Alan Muddiman; seconder – Pete Norris

This motion was carried unanimously with no discussion.

Nominated Charity:

**Motion 5 (Ordinary motion) – that the Club has a nominated charity, which for the next 12 months should be the Air Ambulance Service.**

Proposer – Janet Blick; seconder Frank Dawson

Discussion took place about which events would attract a contribution to the charity; members were reminded that this had a precedent – Pete Howe raised money for ‘Help the Heroes’ by selling tickets to his 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday party in January 2010, half of the £10 cover charge went to the charity, and in addition further funds were raised on the night through the merchandising of wristbands. Members would be advised when an event included a contribution to the nominated charity.

The motion was carried by a show of hands.

## **7. Elections**

(a) Honorary Officers

Vice Presidents

Andy Turton and Pete Howe will continue as VPs for one further year (2-year term); Maggie Whitlock and John Smith will step down, and two more VPs will be elected.

The following 3 nominations were received:

Ray Parry, Alan Muddiman, Sandra Winchurch

The votes were as follows on a show of hands: Ray – 18 votes, Alan 17 votes, Sandra 14 votes. The meeting made Sandra an honorary member as she was a ‘near miss’ on VP.

(b) Directors

The following Directors are stepping down from their positions: Alan Muddiman as Publicity/ALO officer; John Gregory as Sports Secretary.

The following members were voted on to the Committee, each by a show of hands:

Secretary - Rose Huish

Treasurer – Frank Dawson

New Members/Publicity – Pete Norris

Weekends Coordinator – Dave Elliott

Sports Secretary – Jane Gripton

The role of chairman will continue to be taken at each committee meeting by one of the directors listed above. The committee will co-opt members to fill the following positions: Bulletin Editor, Membership Secretary.

Assistants to the Committee by discussion with current or prospective post-holders.

**8. Officers' Reports 2010- 2011 – Q & A**

No questions were tabled from the members to the committee.

**9. A.O.B.**

Alan Muddiman was thanked for chairing the AGM.

The meeting formally closed at 10.45pm.