



Document 4

Agenda Items 3 for AGM

8 December 2023

Document 4: DRAFT MINUTES of SGM, & MATTERS ARISING

Special General Meeting

Venue: Portmarnock Links Hotel

Date: Thursday, 11 July 2024 at 19.30

The meeting was a hybrid meeting with members attending in person and attending online via Zoom.

The meeting began at 19.45

Attendance:

The President opened the meeting, noting that there was a quorum, and welcoming all present. He advised attendees as follows:

- He sought authorization for the attendance of John Kelly (General Manager (GM)) throughout, attendance by the registration team of Gary Carty and technology provided by Stephen Doyle, Vision Media and Niall Bourke CSS Audio Visual. This was granted by the members.
- Standing orders apply
- In the meeting room:
 - Two motions and both proposer and secondary will be asked to introduce the motions.
 - He asked all present to ensure that they had signed in at the registration desk.
 - He indicated the fire exits.
 - Phones and other communications devices should be switched off.
 - Raise a hand if you want to speak. A roving microphone is provided if necessary.

The President asked John Grant, Honorary Secretary, to read out the notice of the meeting.

Motion 1 – rule change

Rule (existing)

3.7.4

The Entrance fee, payable by all new Ordinary and Five-Day members of the Club, shall be calculated at 7 times the annual subscription of the applicable category in their year of joining. However, in the case of a spouse or Civil Partner of an existing Member or a new applicant, the entrance fee will be half of the normal entrance fee. At least 50% of the entrance fee due must be paid in up front and the balance may be paid in an agreed repayment structure over a period of not more than 5 years at the outset, and at the discretion of the Management Council.

Proposed Rule Change 3.7.4

The entrance fee payable by all new Ordinary and Five -Day Members of the Club, shall be calculated at 7 times the annual subscription of the applicable category in their year of joining, **save for the following exceptions: In the case of a woman, for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029, the entrance fee shall be half of the normal entrance fee.** In the case of a spouse or civil partner of an existing Member or new applicant, the entrance fee shall be half of the normal entrance fee, **provided that the existing Member or new applicant did not receive such reduction.** In all cases, 50% of the entrance fee due must be paid up front and the balance may be paid in an agreed repayment structure over a period of not more than 5 years at the outset, and at the discretion of the Management Council.

Proposed by Sinead Duffy

Seconded by Niall Wallace

Sinead Duffy spoke on proposing the motion. Following lengthy discussions at the December 2023 AGM the incoming council were asked by the members to set up a sub committee to investigate measures to increase the lady membership at The Island and report back to council. The council set up a committee and they met several times. The committee researched several initiatives. All the committees research showed that the current entry fee is a barrier for women to join The Island. The vision is to promote The Island as a modern, diverse and inclusive club.

Currently we have 135 lady members, only 14 ladies between 19 and 49, 36 ladies 50 and 69 and 85 over 70. If we stand still in 5 years' time, we will have 55 ladies under 70 and in 10 years' time we will have 37 lady members under 70.

Niall Wallace spoke as seconder of the motion. The proposal doesn't include intake numbers as future councils will be trusted to blend in members both ladies and men.

The President opened the motion to the floor.

George Smillie stated that the motion should be withdrawn on the basis that at the AGM 2023 it was stated that the lady membership numbers were in decline, and this is not the case.

The President asked for a show of hands and invited an online vote as to whether the meeting should go ahead. Sufficient numbers agreed the meeting should go ahead.

Ciaran Reilly questioned the proposers about the fact that he joined the club 5 years ago on a payment plan and has a 50% payment due in 2025. He asked was it fair that an existing member had to pay a full entrance fee, and a new lady member received a 50% reduction.

Niall Wallace answered by saying it was fair as CR had entered a contract with the club at that time to join and spread the fees and that must be honoured.

An open discussion took place.

The President asked Sinead Duffy to summarise the motion and called for a vote on the motion. Online voting was opened and in person attendees' votes were collected by the scrutineers.

The scrutineers appointed for the voting were Emer Kelleher, Denis Gaffney, Eugene Reilly and Noelle Hurley.

The President introduced the second motion.

Motion 2

Council seeks approval to spend €110,000 of the clubs' funds to rectify all gas related safety issues within the kitchen area, upgrade appropriate kitchen appliances and purchase and install a generator.

Proposed by Larry Brady

Seconded by Eoin Kelly

Larry Brady informed the attendees that the club had installed a new boiler at a cost of circa 120k following the tendering to 3 different companies. The works was recently completed to the club's satisfaction, however the RGI installer, Emcor, notified the club about a safety issue around the gas detection system in the kitchen which required immediate attention. It was also highlighted that some appliances in the kitchen required upgrading, costing circa 40k. In addition, with the new system been install and the area being prone to power cuts, up to 15 per year, it is recommended to install a power generator at a cost of circa 70k.

Eoin Kelly, seconder of the motion, spoke on the motion. EK outlined the size of The Island turning over circa €2 million per year in green fee revenue and the need for business continuity. Other options such as solar panels had been reviewed and will form part of a long-term plan but not at this moment.

Michael Kennedy said that in the interest of health and safety and with any possible gas risk that the council shouldn't have to wait for an EGM to seek approval for the works and they should be covered under general maintenance.

Dara Venables stated that the generator was an unnecessary purchase as we weren't a hospital or essential service.

George Hurley disagreed with a diesel generator as the use of fossil fuels is a substantial cost to the club and the environment. GH suggested an amendment to the motion to remove the cost of the generator.

The President asked for clear wording of the amendment.

George Hurley confirmed the amended motion to be;

Council seeks approval to spend €110,000 of the clubs' funds to rectify all gas related safety issues within the kitchen area, upgrade appropriate kitchen appliances.

The amended motion was proposed by George Hurley and seconded by Dara Venables.

Kevin O'Rourke outlined that installing solar panels would provide approximately a 10% reduction on energy bills and would only provide a back up if the power outage was during daylight hours.

The President asked for a vote on the amendment;

Council seeks approval to spend €110,000 of the clubs' funds to rectify all gas related safety issues within the kitchen area, upgrade appropriate kitchen appliances.

The President clarified that if the amendment is passed it supersedes the original motion if it doesn't pass, we return to the original motion. If the motion is passed the amount to spend will reduce by the cost of the generator which is €52k plus VAT.

The President thanked the scrutineers, Finbarr Gaffney, Gary and John in the office and all the members who attended both in person and online.

The President announced that the first motion was carried, and the amended motion was carried.

The meeting ended at 21.45.

Motion 1		Agree	Disagree	
Attendance Online	102	56	46	
In person	114	100	14	
Total votes	216	156	60	
Needed to carry motion	143.856	72%	28%	
Motion 2	Changed to amended motion on the night			
Attendance Online	97			
In person	114			
Total votes	211			
Needed to carry motion	105.5			
Amended Motion		Agree	Disagree	
Attendance Online	91	56	35	
In person	109	78	31	
Total votes	200	134	66	
Needed to carry motion	100	67%	33%	