



41 Club
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP

THE ASSOCIATION OF EX-ROUND TABLERS' CLUBS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2020 @ 7.30 P.M.

Zoom Videoconference

1) Secretary's Announcements

National Secretary Bernard Elwen opened the meeting by asking all present to mute themselves, and unmute when invited to speak. The voting would be by means of the polling facility in Zoom. Delegates would be asked to use this to cast their votes, unless they were voting on behalf of more than one club. In this instance, they would be required to use the Chat facility.

2) Welcome from the National President

National President Peter Good opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the Special General Meeting of the National Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs. The President declared the Special General Meeting to be in session at 7:30pm

3) Greetings from Tangent

The President brought greetings from Tracey Pickin, National Vice President of Tangent Clubs.

4) Presentations from Board Members

National President Peter introduced the members of the 41 Club National Board, who each gave a short overview of what they were doing to promote fellowship within 41 Club.

- **Bernard Elwen – National Secretary.** Responsible for organising Board, Council and General Meetings, and sending out notifications and taking minutes. Worked with David Smith (Honorary Solicitor) on interpreting rules and replying to queries. Worked with Hugh Milward (Honorary Archivist) in maintaining records and memorabilia.
- **Kevin Lovett – National Treasurer.** Responsible for overseeing all aspects of income and expenditure, and preparing and presenting accounts, budget and financial report.
- **Don Mullane – National Communications and IT Officer.** CAS2 was available for use by members and clubs, and the bulk e-mail system was in the process of being rolled out for use by National Council. The magazine was printed and sent out three times a year, with a monthly newsletter sent to all members by e-mail. Facebook groups had been set up for each Region. The 41 Club website was having some issues with being updated, but was due to be replaced in the new year. The 41 Club Buddy System had been introduced, for those members experiencing loneliness and in need of support.
- **Andy Ventress – International Relationships Officer.** He had taken part in weekly Zoom calls with other IRO's from around the world and the International Board. He had also

attended a few international virtual events. He was also working with Bruce Bennett (YAP Convenor) on the Young Ambassador Programme.

- **Glen Lyon – National Membership Officer.** We have opened 13 new 41 Clubs in the year prior to lockdown. We have a Membership committee seeking better ways to get former Round Tablers involved in 41 Club. The ongoing challenge for everyone is to recruit the tranche of ex-Tablers who have not yet joined 41 Club.
- **Tom Atkins – National Council Liaison Officer.** Liaison between the 41 Club Board and National Councillors. There were a few vacancies for National Councillor, which those on the call were asked to consider.
- **Andrew Mackereth – Immediate Past President.** His role was to support the President, and advise and mentor Board members. He encouraged all present to get involved with local charities and causes, and raise the profile of 41 Club and the Round Table family.
- **Steve James – National Fellowship Officer** (by video presentation). The members Benefits handbook had been circulated to all members. He was looking at more discounts for members. He was working to ensure that an AGM of some form took place in 2021.

After the Board members had given their reports, the National President asked Marcus Jones (President's PLC) to give an overview of *41 Club Connects*, the online series of talks on a variety of topics of general interest to 41 Club members.

5) Roll Call of Clubs and Voting Delegates

National Secretary took a roll call of all voting delegates and the clubs they were voting on behalf of. There were 80 clubs with voting delegates, out of 719 clubs in total who were eligible to vote. This equated to 11% of eligible clubs, which met the 5% threshold for quoracy.

6) Approval of Notice to Convene the Meeting

National Secretary stated that the notice convening the Special General Meeting of the Association had been communicated to all constituent clubs in accordance with the national rules. This had been circulated to all constituent clubs on 9th November 2020.

Notice of the meeting was approved.

7) Purposes and Objects

David Chard, National Councillor, Region 20, read Purposes and Objects.

8) In Memoriam

President Peter reported that a number of 41 Club members had died during the year and asked the meeting to observe a minute's silence in their memory.

9) Apologies for Absence

Steve James – National Fellowship Officer
Peter Walker – National Councillor Region 9
John Manley - National Councillor Region 10
Steve Tasker - National Councillor Region 11
Peter McBride - National Councillor Region 24

10) Approval of Tellers

Bryn Morgan – Llantwit Major 41 Club
Paul McGinn – Llantwit Major 41 Club

Tellers were approved unanimously.

11) Presentation of the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2019



The Past National Treasurer, David Leach, moved that the report and accounts be received.

The meeting received the accounts.

David Leach presented the accounts and took questions. The capitation for 2019 had been based on the number of members in CAS as at 31 December 2018. Nick Morcumb (Whitchurch and VoRTEX) asked how much of the shortfall in income had been due to clubs who had outstanding subscriptions as opposed to a shortfall in membership. David Leach replied that 98% of subscriptions had been collected, leaving £4200 in jeopardy. Any subscriptions paid in arrears would be accounted for in the following year's accounts.

There was a significant underspend on depreciation, because capital expenditure on IT equipment was allowed for but did not happen. There was also an underspend on IT training. The underspend on expenditure more than offset the shortfall in income.

In answer to a question on reserves, David Leach replied that there had been a surplus of £12k brought forward, which gave a total amount in reserves of £228k. The Association was required to maintain reserves of 50% as an absolute minimum, but 100% of annual expenditure in reserves was the most desirable figure. The current reserves were at a level allowed for within our Reserves policy.

The meeting adopted the Report and the 2019 Accounts.

12) Presentation of Budget for 2021

The National Treasurer, Kevin Lovett, presented the budget for 2021. This had been based on assumed income and expenditure before the coronavirus situation, and were the same figures that would have been presented to the 2021 AGM in Cardiff.

Kevin Lovett presented a short slideshow, showing the impact of reducing the level of capitation in 2021, against likely expenditure. It was pointed out that there were several unknown factors in assessing likely income and expenditure in 2021. The biggest unknown factor was what the reduction in membership and affiliation as likely to be as we came out of lockdown. There was a possibility that the shortfall in income in 2021 could exceed the surplus made in 2020.

Peter Halliwell (Sandbach 41 Club) asked what economies were available for National Council meetings, and also whether it would be an idea to reduce capitation for those who did not wish to receive the magazine in hard copy. Kevin Lovett replied that there had been a poll conducted several years ago of our membership, with the outcome that most valued receiving a printed magazine. There were no plans to introduce a two-tier membership. Any club who considered that should be reviewed was welcome to bring a resolution to a future AGM. Comms and IT Officer Don Mullane added that members had the option of declining the printed version by selecting this in CAS. Richard Matthews (Shaftesbury & Gillingham, and Showtime 41 Clubs) said that the issue of the magazine had been debated several times in the past, and each time the conclusion was that this was a value to an aging membership and should be retained. This was seconded by Martin Green (Abingdon and Isis 41 Clubs) Peter Halliwell responded by stating that he was not suggesting the printed magazine be discontinued, but that savings could be made in the budget by offering a discount to those who did not wish to receive a printed version.

A question was asked in the Chatbox why we still paid the same to Marchesi House while we were in lockdown. Kevin Lovett replied that we had a contract and service level agreement with Round Table for the services provided to us by Marchesi House, which had to be adhered to.

Tom Abbott (Harpenden and Royston 41 Clubs) asked how a reduction in National Council meetings and general expenditure could be used to reduce subscriptions. Kevin Lovett replied that there may be increased expenditure in the coming year to be taken into consideration. He also replied that 41

Club rules did not permit capitation to be increased by more than 4% per annum if it were to be reduced.

Martin Green (Abingdon and Isis 41 Clubs) asked why we were paying for the rental of a President's car when he couldn't go anywhere. President Peter Good replied that he had managed to make some visits, albeit not as many as normal. He added that we were in uncertain times, with no idea when he would be able to use the car once more.

Barry Durman (Shirley Late Nights) thought that 41 Club should be looking to increase expenditure on member activity rather than reduce income. He also asked for consideration to be given to funding for Millennium Way leaflets.

Ian Byrne (Maidstone) asked why £19k was needed for membership initiatives if we were all expected to take responsibility for increasing membership. Membership Officer Glen Lyon talked about some of the ways this money was being spent to capture some of the 20,000 ex-Tablers who have never joined 41 Club. One avenue being explored was talking to Rotary Club so advertising space was being looked at in Rotary magazine. Nick Morcumb (Whitchurch and VoRTEX) asked whether this money was being spent to attract new 41 Club members or to retain existing members. Glen Lyon replied that it was for both. Work was required to support clubs and prevent disaffiliation.

Nick Morcumb also asked what community service initiatives were being considered to raise the profile of 41 Club. Glen Lyon replied that the Millennium Way was an obvious example. Delivering food parcels to needy local people was another. These initiatives would raise our profile amongst the younger generation.

John Bellwood (Forest of Dean 41 Club) had asked for accounts for 2020 so far. Kevin Lovett replied that accounts would be sent out after the end of the year.

As there were no further questions, the National President invited the National Treasurer to propose the 2021 budget.

The 2021 budget was approved.

13) Appointment of Independent Examiners

The National Treasurer proposed that Duncan & Toplis be re-appointed as Independent Examiners for the year 2020.

The vote for the Independent Examiners Duncan & Toplis was **carried**.

16) Any Other Business

Richard Matthews (Shaftesbury & Gillingham, and Showtime 41 Clubs) thanked the National President and members of the Board and Council for all they were doing to keep 41 Club alive in these difficult times.

Signed as a True and Accurate record:

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Peter Good
National President
2020 - 2022

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Date

