

WEST EWELL SOCIAL CLUB AND INSTITUTE

(Affiliated to the Club and Institute Union Ltd. Registered under the Friendly Societies Act)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 18TH MAY 2025

The AGM opened on Sunday 18th May at 11:10 a.m.

In attendance 34 members;

Messrs: K Austin (014), R Ball (327), S Dobson (577), R Glazier (162), A. Hughes (055), R. Hutchings (150), G. Jacobs (001), S Jerrom (741), D Jobson (220), C King (222), I Lacey (458), R Lockyer (826), T Lockyer (444), D Lowry (471), J Macaulay (170), D Morris (482), M McKen (529), J Osborne (740), P Osborne (713), C Perry (464), D Roberston (410), B Smith (128), J Taylor (837), G Wells (033)

24 male members

Ms: S. Bellingham (083L), J Bower (092L), M Hughes (025L), A Jacobs (373L), T King (263L), T Osborne (035L), C Paddick (061L), S Perry (113L), T Smith (065L) L. Walker (414L)

9 female members

Secretary, Christine Paddick took the Minutes of the meeting.

Geoff Jacobs, (Club President) opened the 2025 AGM. He welcomed the ladies and gentlemen members present to the meeting and apologised for the lateness of the start which was due to printing something that a member requested.

1. **Apologies** – The president apologised for Management Committee members absence.

2. To confirm the 2024 AGM Minutes

Proposed by Alan Hughes and seconded by Steve Jerrom. Minutes confirmed

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

4. Adoption of Accounts for January – December 2024

Members had copies of the accounts available prior to the AGM. There were no matters arising and no comments. Proposed by Kevin Austin and seconded by Morvell McKen. Accounts adopted.

5. Adoption of revised Byelaws

The President advised that copies of revised Byelaws have been available to members for over a while now, however for some this was the first time seeing them. Discussion held around section 8, Children and Persons under the age of 18 and should the Club have a Safeguarding representative due to the Byelaws heavily stating children are solely parents' responsibility. Also, potentially a review of timings that children, of a certain age at least, are allowed in until, i.e should a 3-year-old be in the Club at 11pm surrounded by people drinking, possibly their parents too. It was advised that any amendments should be put forward to the Secretary in writing or by email for the Management Committee to discuss.

6. President's Report

Welcome and thank you for your attendance here today.

In the audit you can see that our finances remain in a very comfortable position and that's thanks to all our regular members for your constant support, together with the close monitoring and negotiations by the trustees and Bar and Finance chairperson with our suppliers.

Last October, the number of Club memberships reached 1280 so in that month the Management Committee unanimously took the unprecedented decision to postpone new members until March this year, when membership numbers would be reviewed following renewals. This then allowed us to open our doors again; however, numbers will be reviewed closely by the new management committee in the near future.

We all continue to remember past members and friends of the Club who are no longer here with us.

In the last year we've seen the re-introduction of well-behaved dogs and celebrated its trading of over 100 years. It has also in his month seen Guinness being the Club's first pint to reach £5.

The Club now has 3 pending logo images which the future newly elected management committee will choose by vote. It will then be seen on staff corporate clothing, company letter headings and social media.

The Management Committee requested a temporary internal sub-committee be formed to revise the Clubs byelaws, bringing them up to date with our changing club life. Following their meeting, the recommendations were agreed for publication. A copy of these in A4 format will soon be hanging on the notice board in the lobby.

In March this year the trustees had a meeting with our suppliers, Heineken and Carlsberg to discuss a new Commercial Agreement. Their proposal was out forward to the Management Committee and subsequently has been agreed. The new agreements have been signed for the next 3 years. Carlsberg confirmed that apart from the potential cost increase for Guinness over this time, our cost prices will remain as they are until February 2026.

Carlsberg have also replaced three chillers behind the bar at no cost and offered a 25% discount on new Club garden furniture. Heineken have not been so forthcoming at this early stage.

I give great thanks to all the active members of our busy Management Committee for their loyal commitment in their constant ongoing hard work - mostly, if not always, behind closed doors, in their own free time in different guises keeping our Club doors open, alongside ongoing repair and maintenance programs, including the Club owned house next door, and also arranging entertainment for the young and not so young. If you would like to be a part of our successful team, the application sheet is displayed in the lobby.

We also held a charity event this year where the darts team raised just over £4000 (£5000 with gift aid) with proceeds going to MacMillan support group. I would like to say well done and thank you to everybody that either took part, supported or donated.

Our annual members Christmas raffle once again was well received raising just almost £7000 worth of prizes, including cash ones. Thank you to all who took part in this as well.

7. Club Elections

The President said it is a full-on responsibility and often time consuming in the Committee but if you would like, and can contribute to our successful team, the application sheet is displayed on the notice board in the main entrance foyer. Put your name and membership number followed by your proposer and seconder, each with their membership number.

Voting, if required, will take place over 3 consecutive days – Friday 30th May, Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

Scrutineers, if required, will be Susan Bellingham (083L), Maggie Hughes (025L) and Ann Jacobs (373L).

8. Motions from the Committee

- The president spoke on behalf of the committee to increase annual membership fees by £5 for all.

Arguments for and against the motion were put and discussed.

Arguments against included the fact this was 100% increase for our over 65-year-old members but only 20% for all other members.

It was also asked what the additional fund would be used for. This was explained by the President that it would cover increasing utility costs and N.I for employees, alongside general increase in cost of materials and labour for any works required.

The motion was put to vote with 1 against and 31 in favour.

9. Motions from the Floor

- a) The President asked member R Lockyer (826) to read his proposal (which was seconded by T Lockyer (444): This was that after the successful trial of allowing dogs into the Club, several members who work until 5pm or later had mentioned wanting to bring their dogs in for a couple of hours after work. The proposal is to change the times that dogs are allowed in, so from Monday to Thursday it would be from 4pm – 8pm (a 2 hour extension on the current 6pm deadline).

Arguments for and against the motion were put and discussed alongside an amendment to the proposal by D Lowry (471) that on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the time dogs were allowed into was increased by 30 minutes to 6.30pm, specifically due to later afternoon football kick offs.

Arguments for was that if dogs are already in the Club, the extra time won't make much difference to the days requested and allows members to come with their dogs after work that may not normally visit.

Arguments against were that it could pose an issue on a Friday with card bingo and the Club does start to get busier around 6pm.

The motion was put to vote with 10 against and 19 in favour with 3 abstained.

- b) The President asked member Maggie Hughes (025L) to state her proposal: This was to confirm date of refurbishment of the ladies' toilets due to it looking shabby, cubicles rattling and makeshift locks, as this has been requested many times before alongside having a lot more female members now.

This wasn't put to vote due to the renovation of the ladies' toilets already being on the Buildings Committee 'to do' list however other jobs have had to be prioritised. This response was accepted.

The President thanked Club members and committee for their attendance and invited them to the bar for a free drink.

Meeting closed at 11.46 hours.