

# **Broadstone Royal British Legion Club Ltd**

**Minutes of the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at**

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

**1. Introduction:** Tony Clarke welcomed members to the 78<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Broadstone Royal British Legion Club Ltd.

**2. Exhortation:** by Len Bucknall

**3. Apologies for Absence – Mark Jefferson (MJ)**

Steve Gray, Chris Burt & Mark Aldridge

**4. Approval of minutes of Previous AGM – MJ**

The minutes of the previous AGM (January 2024) were proposed for approval by Ian Boucher, seconded by Gary Slade and unanimously approved by all those present.

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

Tony Clarke (Chairman) & Les Bucknall (President) were nominated unopposed.

Shannon Harris stepped down from the committee

New nomination was Andy Marsden

The remainder of the committee stood again

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

The treasurer and secretary will be confirmed at the next committee meeting

**6. Collection of Voting Slips for counting**

Not needed.

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

- **Club Lease**
  - The lease is up for review now to start new agreement in 2025. Initial contact with Adrew Morgan suggests 6% of gross which could be up to £26,000. 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. He is optimistic it will be resolved this year (2025). Mainly down to the council, it is a slow long process.
- **Restaurant**
  - Poppies Restaurant opened in late Feb 2023 but sadly after much initial success, we terminated the agreement in September 2024. We had many discussions with them as to how to recover the restaurant reputation and standards but decided that it wasn't possible.
  - We subsequently appointed Heroes Restaurant to take over the franchise in October 2024
- **Bar Manager**
  - Simon completed his probationary period and was confirmed during Feb 2023. Unfortunately, he resigned on the day of the 2024 AGM. We decided against appointing a new bar manager and instead made Jo and Yvette co-head stewards. We continually review how the club is managed and will be sticking with this arrangement for the future.
- **Club Activities**
  - We now have 2 snooker, pool and darts teams. 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**
  - After complaints from neighbours, we have installed sound proofing in the ceiling over the pool tables, installed new acoustic glass/windows in the snooker room and at the pool table end. Still

have a bit of work to improve the fire doors and the fan hole by the pool table

- Lots of maintenance done on cellar, windows/doors with more planned for this year
- **Volunteers**
  - We would love to run more events (e.g. card bingo, casino night etc) but without volunteers to organise and run, they can't be done
  - TC thanked Andy and Matt who have volunteered to help with Meat Draw raffle
- **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
  - 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 have a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sky box now (no extra cost) so Restaurant TV has it's own box
  - Mark thanked Julie for helping with Facebook
- **Members**
  - Currently stand at 1258 (compared to 1076 last year) at end of September
  - Special mention to Sarah Thompson for maintaining the membership record but sadly she left early 2024 for family reasons.
  - 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**
  - Our May open day caused some issues with neighbours over noise even though we had all the correct licenses. Advice from council is

that they are unlikely to give us an outside music license this year so all music will have to be indoors – still hoping to run it again with outside BBQ

- Race Nights very successful – another one will be run soon with a new DVD as used up the old Frankie Dettori one
- Race Day – Sandown was great this year but poorly attended. Looking for someone to arrange a race day this year
- 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.
  - Had success in sharing ideas and processes with many of the clubs saving money by copying others
  - We will continue to attend and hopefully this group will provide further ideas and savings in the future
  - One benefit is with Dransfields (fruit machine supplier) – new agreement on profit sharing and got the jukebox install for free and pool table relaid
- **Member Raised Issues**
  - Parking – should we re-introduce the Car park Fines.
    - It would cost us approx. £500 a year with no return as the car park firm keep all fines. It continues to be a big issue in the afternoons with the school run.
    - To be discussed by new committee
  - Restaurant Liaison Meeting
    - It has been suggested that if no-one from the committee has kitchen/catering experience a member should join the monthly meeting with Heroes Restaurant. Totally agree and fortunately Steve Gray will help us with this initially. Any other members wanting to join the meeting, please let us know and we can swap who joins

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

- **Overall Numbers**
  - Operating profit of £17,912 for 2023-2024
  - Shareholders Fund stands at £298,804 (compared to £280,710 last year)

- Increase in energy bills, rent and NI costs will affect us going forward and currently estimating a small loss for this upcoming year
- Our rent currently stands at £16,000 a year and current offer from RBL is an increase to £25,000 a year – we will be meeting them in late January to continue discussions but we don't expect much movement in this fee
- **Savings**
  - Lots of free internal maintenance by committee and members
  - Constantly looking at changing suppliers (moved Gas in June 2024)
  - Getting 1 month 100% profit from Dransfields for machines
  - Broadband £10 a month cheaper this year
- **Bar Prices**
  - Prices will be increased on 1<sup>st</sup> March (last rise was 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024)
- **Maintenance Costs**
  - As mentioned, we get lots of free maintenance from members. Biggest cost this year was the soundproofing and new windows – hopefully not a lot to do this upcoming year

## **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

## **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 2025 will be:

- (a) President - Leonard Bucknall
- (b) Chairman - Tony Clarke
- (c) Vice Chairman - VACANCY

- (d) Committee Member - Mark Jefferson
- (e) Committee Member – Paul Oliver
- (f) Committee Member – Mark Aldridge
- (g) Committee Member – Ian Boucher
- (h) Committee Member – Gary Slade
- (i) Committee Member – Andy Marsden
- (j) Committee Member – Liz Fletcher
- (k) Committee Member – Graham Sutherland

**12. Close of Business – Tony Clarke**

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

**Mark Jefferson**

**Club Secretary**

30<sup>th</sup> January 2025