

# MINUTES OF THE 72ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MBABANE CLUB

Held at the Mbabane Club on 17 November 2020

## Present:

Charles Bethel – President  
Lean Drinkwater – Vice President  
Kate Ansley – Secretary  
Mongi Dlamini – Treasurer  
Lucy McKenzie – Lady Member  
Sean Johnson – Gentleman Member  
Peter Platchkov – Tennis section chairman  
Bud Takis – Squash section chairman

+37 members as per the attached register.

## Welcome

The President welcomed everyone, and the meeting commenced at 18:25.

The General Committee have been informed that the following members and former members passed away during the year; a minute's silence was held in respect for:

- Adrian Sharp
- Bernie Gray

## 1. Minutes of the previous annual general meeting held on 30th October 2019

These were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Two omissions were noted: i) The President was asked if there is a written agreement in place between the Club and the operator of the gym, and the answer was, there is no written agreement; and ii) the President was asked to explain why a new lease had not be signed with Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd., and he gave the reason as being because of disagreements within the General Committee about the lease conditions.

Adoption of the minutes proposed by Martin Forsyth-Thompson and seconded by Justine Martin.

## 2. Treasurer's report

The audited accounts and balance sheet (annual financial statements) were distributed to members at the meeting.

The Treasurer noted that:

- "Core membership subscriptions took a nosedive from SZL 488 thousand in the prior year to SZL 449 thousand in the current financial year. This is due to two key trends we are noting in membership behaviour: 1. some member are not renewing due to relocations and some members not seeing full benefits of membership, and 2. members downgrading membership classes from full membership to single or social/sporting membership classes. The speaks largely to an expected consumer spending behaviour which shows consolidation in spending patterns. Onus remains on us to ensure that we collectively defend our membership base by remaining relevant to their needs, listening to their concerns and where possible provide additional value.
- "Due largely to the national lock down which resulted in limited travel and closure and suspension of sporting activities, including gyms we also note a reduction in gym subscriptions from SZL 60 thousand to SZL 37 thousand.
- "Over the past two years we have struggled to recover subscriptions collected on our behalf by the golf section who act as a collections agent. Cumulatively the golf section has collected SZL 90 thousand but has only remitted SZL 18 thousand, hence in this financial year we show a receivable amount of SZL 70 thousand in this regard. We continue to pursue remittance of the said funds across to the main club, together with 2020/2021 collected subs.
- "Expenditure reduced year on year by SZL 328 thousand of which SZL 160 thousand is non-cash. We note positive interest expense performance benefitting from reduction in the prime lending rates in

the current year. Consistent expenditure lines such as rates and insurance has largely increased in line with inflation.

- "To protect the value of the property we continue to do maintenance work to the club and spent SZL 41 thousand to upkeep the property.
- "Despite a significant cash outlay of SZL 189 thousand, cash balances remain healthy as we close the year with SZL 637 thousand, which could have been higher had the golf club remitted due funds.

"In closing, it is critical that we continue to protect our membership base and recruit new members to protect the sustainability of the club."

The question was asked again, as it was last year, about why funds have not been transferred to a call account. The President replied that he had opened the account but did not get around to transferring the funds into it, for which he apologised.

A question was raised about income to the club from users of the gym. The President replied that the Club gets a portion of gym members fees—the difference between a full rate and a discount rate—and the gym operator, Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd., does not pay a rent because this is covered in the lease agreement.

This prompted another question concerning the lease with Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. The President replied that although the lease had expired, it was still in effect on a month-to-month basis, and although a new lease had been prepared both Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. and the Trustees had some issues with it. The President clarified that although Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. did not pay a rent for the Millin, Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. manages and maintains the club and the bar on behalf of the club, and that the club's only expenses are rates, insurance and major maintenance. A follow up question asked, if there is no lease in place, then how has Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. been able to obtain a liquor license for the Millin because a current lease is needed to get a license. A club member declared that the liquor license was obtained illegally; the President responded that the lease matter is being addressed.

A question was raised about the golf section debt being placed against subscription income when it has not been received and contributes to the total subscription income in excess of SZL 500,000, which has a bearing on the lease conditions with Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. to make up any subscription shortfall. The Treasurer responded by saying this was income but if it proved to be unrecoverable it would be written off, and that since the money was collected by the golf section but not paid over to the main club it does not affect the lease agreement.

A member requested that the question of golf (SGU) subscription payments must be dealt with quickly by the outgoing committee so as not to burden the incoming committee.

Regarding the fall in subscription income, the Gentleman Member stated that as of August 2020 the club has 266 individual members, which is up from 237 in the previous year.

A member stated that the absence of golf section financials attached to the club's annual financial statements is due to their AGM not being until next weekend, but asked why are there no financials from tennis and squash sections? No reason was offered. Although concerns were expressed about adopting the club's financial statements in the absence of section financials, the President suggested that they could be approved provisionally subject to section financials being circulated via emails for members to approve. David Takis proposed provisionally adopting the club's financial statements; seconded by Justine Martin.

### **3. President's report**

"Trustees, fellow members, honorary members, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to present my report at this the 72nd Annual General meeting of the Mbabane club.

"This is my fourth and last year as president, and it was the strangest year we have experienced as a community with the CO VID 19 pandemic. The pandemic has been very challenging and the committee with the support of Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. (managing company) has taken an approach of protect and preserve until we can chart a way forward from this challenge.

"In this time, I would like to thank the members who have supported the club in any way possible under the circumstances and I know we can rely on our members to support the club in the same way going forward. I would also like to thank Barry Takis from Fat Baz H. H. Pty Ltd. who has managed all the different Covid related challenges but was still able to keep the "doors open" when allowed. A lot of individual members have commended him for his efforts to me personally.

"In terms of the financials we have taken a very conservative approach and kept spending to a minimum and you will see from the Treasurers report that we have been able to keep our surpluses in place. The biggest spend that was undertaken was the resurfacing of the tennis courts which was necessitated by a reckless driver who decided to do his own version of the Fast and the Furious when he crashed through our boundary wall onto the top tennis court.

"Membership has remained stable, but we are concerned about how we go about getting new members and how we provide value that relates to the entire family so that members don't downgrade their membership. In view of this we kept the membership subscription the same and membership fees have not increased in the last 4 years.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members and I would also like to thank all of the members and especially the members that have been with the club for many years and who keep on supporting the club through all its challenges.

"Lastly, I would like to wish the new members joining the committee all the best in the coming year and confirm that they can rely on my support".

#### **4. Proposed amendments to the Club's constitution**

A proposal was made to adopt all the changes approved by the outgoing committee and Trustees and to consider only those amendments that were submitted subsequently in October. However, some members objected to adopting the amendments because they had not received all the emails about the changes, and instead asked for a committee to be formed to review the proposed amendments. The President proposed a motion that: a) a committee be formed comprising the outgoing committee, the incoming committee and some volunteer members to review the amendments, b) this must be done within two weeks, c) if the committee agreed on the amendments they would be passed to the Trustees for review, and d) if the Trustees approve the amendments, they will be adopted by the membership. This motion was put to a vote and 19 members present were in favour and 14 against. John Henderson, Justine Martin and David Takis volunteered to be part of the review committee.

#### **5. Election of new general committee**

Uncontested nominations were received for the vacant positions on the General Committee and the following members were duly inaugurated into office:

Mduduzi Nyoni – President  
Lean Drinkwater – Vice President  
Sean Johnson – Secretary  
Ray Thomas – Treasurer  
Nellie Nyawo – Lady Member  
Ali Resting – Gentleman Member

#### **6. Any other business**

A concern was raised about open access and use of club facilities by non-members, and especially on the use of the pool by non-members and the liability implications that this may have. The outgoing President replied that new security measures were now in place on the main door requiring keypad entry, but stricter security measures will be looked at; the pool gate is now kept locked, and all members are asked to assist the barmen in ensuring that gasses are not taken into the pool area. A related question concerned the hiring out and use of the pool to non-members for private swimming lessons. The club manager replied that the money raised from this is used to help maintain the pool.

Regarding an issue raised about members bringing guests into the club, it was suggested that the visitor's book should be reinstated, and regular guests identified and approached to become members.

Martin Forsyth-Thompson proposed that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded, and the meeting duly closed at 19:40.

# Members in Attendance

|    | Name                  |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Kate Ansley           |
| 2  | Charles Rethel.       |
| 3  | Lucy McKenzie         |
| 4  | Daryl McKenzie        |
| 5  | Maggi Plummer         |
| 6  | Mollie Myauo          |
| 7  | Sarah Johnson.        |
| 8  | Martin F-T            |
| 9  | Chaisra F-T           |
| 10 | Justin Norton         |
| 11 | Thao Mason            |
| 12 | Wilma Mason           |
| 13 | Peter Platshof        |
| 14 | John Henderson        |
| 15 | Julian von Hirschberg |
| 16 | Len Dinkeld.          |
| 17 | Amangzi Ntsoi         |
| 18 | Sizo Kunene           |
| 19 | Bill Cup              |
| 20 | Ali Resting           |
| 21 | Sean Johnson          |
| 22 | Sharon Resting        |
| 23 | Wimbi James           |
| 24 | DAVE TAKES            |
| 25 | DUTCH TAKES           |
| 26 | Lewis Martin          |
| 27 | BERRY AUSLEY          |
| 28 | TREVOR MTHETHWA       |
| 29 | Magnum Nick           |
| 30 | Carlos Rego           |
| 31 | DANNY REGO            |
| 32 | RAY THOMAS            |
| 33 | Zephani Muni          |
| 34 | Bonsinkosi Masingu.   |
| 35 | Nontobozo Langwenya   |

|    | Name              |
|----|-------------------|
| 36 | Zweli Nandu       |
| 37 | Philip Mayhem     |
| 38 | DUTCH TAKES       |
| 39 | DUTCH TAKES       |
| 40 | Mafulazela Mopoke |
| 41 | Audrey Mthembu    |
| 42 | Velile DUBE       |
| 43 | MBUXO MBATHWA     |