

MINUTES OF THE 76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MBABANE CLUB

Held at the Mbabane Club on 23rd October 2024

Present:

Ali Resting – President
Lean Drinkwater – Vice President
George Nisbet – Treasurer
Theo Mason – Trustee
Martin Forsyth-Thomson – Trustee
Mduduzi Nyoni – Trustee
Plus 46 members in attendance and 9 proxy forms.

Apologies were received from:

Sean Johnson – Secretary

1. Welcome and notices

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM noting that a quorum was present and introduced the agenda for the meeting, which commenced at 17:45.

The general committee has been advised of the following bereavements:

Ray Thomas
Patrick McGinn

2. Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting held on 24th October 2023

No corrections or revisions were requested, with no matters arising, and the adoption of the minutes was proposed by Lean Drinkwater and seconded by Martin Forsyth-Thomson.

3. President's Report

First, I would like to thank the outgoing general committee and sport section captains and committees for the hard work and input during the year, and we welcome the new committees and look forward to your inputs for 2024-2025. Lean Drinkwater a big thank you for your nine years of service to the club.

New Committee:

The byelaws of the club allow capex of up to 50% from the general committee, if a section requires more than 50%, the request must be supported by a written motivation for the support with financials.

A condition of the byelaws is that every section must have representation on the General Committee, the section representatives must attend the monthly meetings of the General Committee without fail. Should a section representative not be able to make a meeting an alternate section committee member should be fully briefed and attend the meeting in place of the standing representative. This must be adhered to.

Sections Financials:

Each section must present to the General Committee at its monthly meetings, financials to the end of the preceding month. This should include an income and expenditure statement and statement of financial position i.e. a balance sheet. The financial monitoring role must be transparent and section accountability enforced going forward. The General Committee will provide guidance, support and financial assistance within reason. Governance and financial discipline within the Club is paramount!

Activities:

All sections must strive to increase the number of activities and functions as part of the ongoing drive to increase membership and membership participation.

The Golf Section was highlighted in this regard. Squash and tennis to coordinate and make this happen, tennis has moved into a planned development program which will assist in sponsorship drives. Each sections turnaround plans will be supported with assistance from the General Committee.

Maintenance / Improvements:

Over the prior year, the focus was on items that were old and needed to be attended to.

The current year focused on new areas:

1. Pickleball introduced at court No. 2

2. Cricket introduced at the back of the basketball court
3. Support to squash section specifically on lighting and repairs from water damage
4. Golf club mower deposit paid the balance to be done by the golf club

Financial Position:

The Club generated positive earnings during the year, Income increased by 16% to E830,000 with expenditure up 5% to E570,000. The resultant surplus of income over expenditure for the year was E470,000.

Our expenditure is mainly municipal rates (taxes), insurance, maintenance/improvements, and loan repayments.

The Club is a not-for-profit organisation and being financially sound can generate future events and fund developments for the benefit of the members. The support of the sporting sections has increased and needs to be continued as the club strives to grow membership. To achieve this the facilities provided need sound and relevant. The Club is the only members only club left in the country and as such members can drive growth and sponsorship opportunities.

Membership:

Our membership has continued to grow steadily, and we now sit at 346 paid up members for 2024, this is in reflection to last year's membership of 318 (9%); the club must look to maintain this trend. Also, no increase in membership fees is being applied this year.

Recent growth in memberships can be seen in the graph on the club's website at:

<https://mbabaneclub.co.sz/members-area/members/>

Lease Agreement Fat Baz:

The President thanked Fat Baz management for their contribution and assistance in going through due process on the negotiation of the new lease which will run from the expiry of the old lease on 30 April 2024 for a period of 3 years ending 30 April 2027.

Key issues: The previous lease was not market related; this was a key point in the negotiations as the new lease needed to be market related. This resulted in a revision of the monthly lease from E9,00pm to E17,000pm with a 5% annual escalation, the increase gives a healthy injection of funds monthly. Fat Baz will continue to receive all income from food and beverage sales and will continue to be responsible for staff costs, maintenance and grounds management. Bar prices have been a contentious issue with pricing not being in line with general club practices on bar prices. The current mark up at the bar is 75%, this will be reduced to 60% over time, pricing remaining fixed until this threshold is reached. There will be no changes to the lease unless this is agreed to by the General Committee and Trustees; this is a stipulation in the lease agreement. The incentive to Fat Baz included in the previous lease agreement, where Fat Baz benefitted to 50% of subscriptions received in excess of E500,000 has been removed and not replaced with any incentive targets.

In closing, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your President for 2024 and look forward to being of service in 2025.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer highlighted the following from the annual financial statement:

- The President highlighted the performance of the Club for the financial year in his report.
- The absence of financial statements from the sports sections in prior years has been cause for concern raising the issues of transparency and accountability. Included in this year's report are financials for all three sports sections. Squash and Tennis are accounted for through the main clubs accounting system, both sections financial transactions are quite transparent going forward.
The Golf club maintain autonomous accounting records, the new Golf Committee has a balance sheet to work from but as can be seen they have a serious financial challenge to meet with no funds available.
- The new Golf Committee will need to introduce new initiatives to increase revenues through increased use of the course, advertising and sponsorships. Whilst doing this they must diligently review their expenditure monthly. The Club will look to support the Golf Club going forward, there are however club subscriptions collected by the Golf Club not remitted to the Clubs bank account in the amount of E99,850, a decision on this funding provided by the Club will need to be made by the new General Committee.

The course is in excellent condition and a testament to the Club as a whole and any deterioration will impact negatively on the Club in achieving the goals of the General Committee going forward.

- **Balance Sheet**

Bank balances

The balance on August 31 was E413,000 an increase over prior year of E244,000.

The long-term loan balance was maintained at a minimal level during the year was E31,000 the advance repayments are available for the clubs utilisation for development programs going forward.

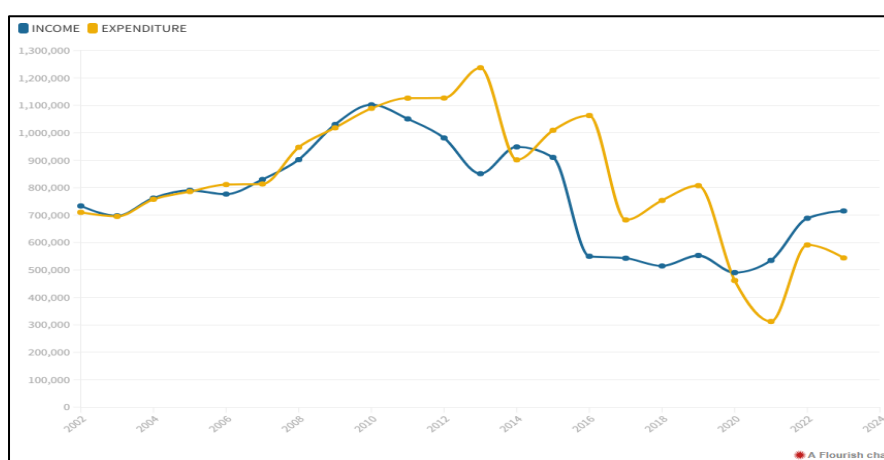
Debtors

The amount due from the Golf club for subscriptions received not paid over, E100,000.

Creditors

The amount due to Fat Baz E66,000 is in respect of the membership incentive included in the previous lease, the amount is in respect of both the 2023 and 2024 financial years. This amount has been paid to Fat Baz after the year end.

The Club is in a healthy financial position and should be able to fund events and development projects as outlined by the President. Overall financial performance in comparison to recent years was illustrated in the chart below:



5. Proposed amendments to the Club's Constitution:

Amendment proposed by K Nkambule and supported by the General Committee:

In paragraph 5.1 on Classes of Members, add the following new class:

"9. International members".

Purpose: to provide a membership category for people who occasionally visit the country.

Insert the following definition of 'International Member' after paragraph 6.8 and renumber the next paragraph:

"6.9. An International Member is a person or persons who resident outside the borders of Eswatini and spend no more than 180 days in a year in Eswatini."

Purpose: to enable past members to retain their membership and ties with the Club while they are temporarily residing outside of the country, and to encourage people who permanently reside outside of the country, and who visit regularly for short periods, to become Club members or retain membership.

Proposed amendment was passed by a majority show of hands and hereby adopted.

6. Honorary Life Members:

None proposed.

7. Election of General Committee for 2024-2025:

The following nominations were received:

For	President	President
Name:	Ali Resting	
Proposed by:	General Committee	
Seconded by:	General Committee	
Accepted:	Yes	
For:	Vice president	Vice president
Name:	Mongi Dlamini	

Proposed by:	Ali Resting	
Seconded by:	Seán Johnson	
Accepted:	Yes	
For:	Treasurer	Treasurer
Name:		
Proposed by:		
Seconded by:		
Accepted:		
For:	Secretary	Secretary
Name:	Sean Johnson	
Proposed by:	General Committee	
Seconded by:	General Committee	
Accepted:	Yes	
For:	Lady member	Lady member
Name:		
Proposed by:		
Seconded by:		
Accepted:		
For:	Gentleman member	Gentleman member
Name:	Patrick Ward	
Proposed by:	Seán Johnson	
Seconded by:	Theo Mason	
Accepted:	Yes	

Nominations for treasurer and lady members were requested from the floor, but none received.

The above-mentioned members were elected for 2024-25 unopposed.

8. Appointment of Auditor:

Mr Bill Capel accepted his reappointment as the club's auditor for 2024-2025.

9. Election of Trustee

Mr A T Dlamini was elected unopposed as a Trustee of the Mbabane Club for 2024-2027 on the retirement of Mr Patrick Forsyth-Thompson.

10. Any other business:

In a response to a question about the snooker Table, the President replied that this is being kept in storage pending a decision by the new General Committee on its future use at the Club.

The meeting closed at 19:00