

Minutes of SLT Members Club AGM 17th August 2020
8pm, via Zoom

Committee Members Present

Adam Crook (Chairman)
Guy Jones (Deputy Chairman)
Liz Glazzard (Secretary)
Andrew Chadney (Treasurer)
Matthew Lyne
Dave Hollander
Ben Rathe
Graham Clements
Jason Salmon
Owen Chidlaw
Barry Heselden
Carol Ironside

Minutes approved from last year's AGM. Proposer: Kelly Kim Seconded: Tom Watts
Minutes approved from 3rd February 2020 EGM Proposer: David Carr Seconded: Fiona Daffern

Chairman's Update (Adam)

Welcome to the 46th AGM for the Members' Club. It is a shame not be able to be with you in person, we'll miss being able to sell you lots of booze in the bar after the AGM! Taking the decision to close the building was hard, particularly when we hadn't been back from Stanley Halls for long. It's been wonderful to see all the things that have been happening in the interim to help us still feel like a community.

One of the first things I'd like to do is give thanks to the members of the bar committee, who have worked so hard this year under such unusual circumstances. This year's committee was made up of:

Guy Jones (Deputy Chair)	Graham Clements
Andrew Chadney (Treasurer)	Jason Salmon
Caroline Doyle (Secretary until last Spring)	Lisa Thomas
Liz Glazzard (Current Secretary)	Matthew Lyne
Brian Fretwell (Bar Manager)	Naomi Liddle
Jenn Nettles (Social Secretary)	Owen Chidlaw
Barry Heselden	Ben Rathe
Carol Ironside	Charlotte Benstead
Dave Hollander	

There is a huge amount of work that goes into running the bar, both visible and invisible. On the visible side we have people attending meetings and serving behind the bar, but behind the

scenes a great deal of effort is spent on things like keeping the bar stocked and managing the volunteer rotas. We have no voting for you this year as none of the posts were contested, so I'm pleased to say that all of the people in named roles on the committee have agreed to continue for the next year. Also, the majority of the Ordinary Members will stay on. The honourable exception to this is Charlotte, who will be stepping down to focus her considerable talents and energy on chairing the Building Preservation Trust (BPT). So thank you to Charlotte for everything you've brought to the committee.

It felt like a very good second half of 2019 in the bar. Since the last AGM we have sold:

2000 pints of Frontier!

1500 Diet Cokes!

750 pints of Cider!

1000 bags of crisps!

And the favourite chocolate bar was...the Wispa!

Obviously, all of this came to an abrupt halt in March. While the bar has been shut, we have been busy trying to figure out ways to provide an enjoyable experience for our members, while still keeping customers and volunteers safe. We've taken a careful approach, carrying out field research into other venues, conducting a survey of members and considering how to apply the latest government guidance on re-opening. This led to us having several pilots in recent weeks of outside bar service in the yard at the side of the building. Thanks to Charlotte's fundraising we have been able to purchase outdoor furniture and lights which make the space really welcoming on a warm summer's evening. Thanks to everybody who has helped with these pilots, particularly Guy, Naomi, Liz and Jason. I'm pleased to announce that we are going to officially re-open in the 'Barden' from this coming Saturday. Subject to weather and available volunteers, we hope to be able to open every Saturday in the short term. It will feel different to the usual inside bar service. You will have to book in advance, we are checking temperatures and providing hand sanitiser and table service. We all need to make sure we use the space safely so we can keep it. In parallel to this, we have started looking into future plans about how we can safely move back inside at some point.

Treasurer's Update (Andrew)

The Members' Club financial year runs February to January, so most of the year we are reporting on took place in 2019. This means comparisons with the previous year are not particularly useful as for most of 2018 we were at Stanley Halls.

Sales have increased because more people have bought more drinks, so thank you! A lot of the money we make goes straight back to the theatre in the form of rent. We also pay our share of running costs for the building.

Our gross profit is at a very healthy 47.11%

Operating profit at £6,277 vs £2,248 last year

We have around £40k cash in the bank. We have offered this to the theatre, but due to Charlotte's fundraising it has not been needed as yet.

Bar Championship & Volunteering (Matthew)

Bar Championship Winner – Lisa Thomas

2nd – Charlotte Benstead

3rd – Adam Crook

Thanks to everyone who gave their time in 2019/2020. I'll be looking for volunteers again soon, but won't call on everyone until the committee have finalised the new ways of working.

AOB

Adam

Vote of thanks to Matthew for putting in a huge amount of time working behind the bar as well as managing the rotas. I echo his plea to get more people volunteering – let's spread it around rather than relying on Matthew and Lisa!

Question from Malcolm Woodman

What will the opening hours be on Saturday?

Adam: 6pm to 10pm – we think the earlier closing time is likely to annoy our neighbours.

Malcolm: Might we consider extending this to Sundays too?

Adam: Not for the moment. We have a limited pool of volunteers. In the longer term we'd like to get back to more regular opening times.

Question from Caroline Durant

How will the booking system work?

Adam: We will be using the LoveAdmin membership system, and you would book for the whole slot of 6pm to 10pm.

Caroline: What's the capacity of the Barden?

Adam: 28 people, in groups of up to 6.

Question from Cal Beckett

What are the projected losses for this year?

Andrew: We won't make losses as such as we are in the black, but we will continue to pay rent, so there'll be a small loss.

Adam: By opening the Barden we have made approximately 10% of what we would have made across a month.

Comments from Members

Cait Feeney: Well done to everyone! What has been achieved over the past couple of years is amazing. Theatre is still alive!

Cal Beckett: Thanks for the Barden pilot after the prom – it was lovely to have a drink!

Adam: We hope to see you again soon – cheers and all the best!