



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 2024 Final

Location: The Falcon Club, Egremont

Date: Wednesday, 11 September 2024

Present:

Mr Geoff Turrell Executive Chair

Executive Members;
Mr Graham Robinson
Mr David Hetherington
Mr Phil Robinson
Mr Ian Richardson (Company Secretary)

Ms Ellie Dunne SASRA Manager
Mr Tony Hindmoor, Armstrong Watson Accountants
Mr Stephen Kirkbride, Armstrong Watson Accountants

Plus 34 Members of SASRA

Apologies:

Mrs Sharon Gallagher
Mrs Alice Thompson
Mr Andy Lee
Mrs Nicola Branney
Mr Ian Stephenson
Mr Andrew Bragg
Mr Thomas Bragg
Mr Alan Doran

Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting at 18.15 hrs and welcomed those in attendance. The Chairman outlined the safety arrangements for the facility, highlighting the fire exits. He requested all mobiles were switched to silent.

Minutes of 2023 AGM

The minutes were approved by the meeting without one minor correction.
Proposed John Killip Seconded Dave Taylorson
Note there were no actions-matters arising from the 2023 meeting.

Chairman's report

SASRA Executive

There may be some misconception regarding the responsibilities between the Executive and our staff. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our current structure. Since our departure from support by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (Sellafield), SASRA became a Limited Company registered with Companies House. The SASRA Executive has the responsibility for determining strategy and direction for the organisation. Our staff, under the management of Ellie Dunne, the SASRA General Manager, has the responsibility for the day-to-day delivery of the strategy. Ellie is directly reportable to the Executive on progress.

Following appointment to the Executive at the 2023 AGM, Phil Lowden has subsequently resigned. Charles Potter, a member of the affiliated Sub Aqua Section, has indicated an interest in appointment to the Executive. This will be discussed under Item 7 on the meeting Agenda.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SASRA Executive members who as volunteers continue to focus their efforts in ensuring the ongoing viability of the organisation.

Egremont Flood Prevention

The 'Right to Flood' arrangements with the Environment Agency (EA) are still ongoing. An offer of £20K for potential clean-up activities has been accepted by the Executive. However, the EA wish to conclude the legal aspects in tandem with an offer to the West Lakes Academy. Once agreed, the requisite documentation will be drafted for consideration. It is noted that should WLA gain a higher offer, SASRA would be given the same sum.

Social Clubs

It is important that the SASRA membership, particularly the affiliated Sections, understand the vital role of the two Social Clubs. Without improved and ongoing support, there is a likelihood that the current grant scheme available will be withdrawn.

As stated earlier, it is the responsibility of the Executive to make the key decisions for the business. Paul O'Halloran tendered his notice earlier this year for the operation of the restaurant at the Falcon Club. This was accepted by the Executive and I am pleased to

confirm that a new contract has been agreed with Emma's Bakes for operation of the kitchen facilities.

A field day was arranged in conjunction with Emergency Services personnel in July. The event allowed them to demonstrate their commitment to our community and also helping them to generate much needed funds. The event proved to be so successful that it will become an annual event. Well done to all involved.

A tree planting scheme for the perimeter of the Falcon had been considered in conjunction with Cumbria Community Forest. Following a meeting to discuss details of the scheme, it was considered that the ongoing maintenance requirements were too excessive to be met by SASRA personnel. A way forward may be the opportunity to utilise the Community Payback and Haverigg Prison personnel which is under consideration.

The opportunities for the use of solar systems to assist in the reduction of energy costs is still being explored.

The Shackles Off Project for the use of land at the Windscale Club is progressing. The previous issue with the position of a telephone mast was resolved. However, during excavations, it has been discovered that there may be problems with soft ground at the Windscale Club site. Following investigation, the base slab will require a piled foundation and costings are being determined.

Sections

An update has been received from the Rifle Club on their potential relocation to High Ling Bank. In what seems to be a positive proposal, the Executive are to arrange a meeting to discuss and clarify several of the specific requirements which may have an impact on SASRA.

1000 Clubs

Due to the reduction in ticket take-up, the 3 original Clubs were reduced to 2 x 1100 Clubs for the 2024 programme of draws. The additional 100 numbers in each Club resulted in 2 additional £1000 payments in July. The reduction is mainly due to the level of retirees from Sellafield whose contributions are deleted when salary deductions cease. 2025 will see a return to the previous pay-out format.

Thank you

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank the staff for their commitment in what has been a difficult year. Also, I extend my thanks to the numerous volunteers who ensure the various SASRA Sections continue to function.

There was no questions/queries raised regarding the report.

Presentation of Annual Accounts for the period 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024.

Mr Stephen Kirkbride Armstrong Watson gave a presentation of the above accounts.

A full document is available on the SASRA Web site.

It was noted that Gibbons merged with Armstrong Watson 29th April 2024

Key points for 2022/23 included: -

Accounts to 31 January 2024

Profit and Loss Account Turnover, net of VAT, is up £48k from last year.

The main variances are as follows: -

Windscale Bar sales,	Up 32k
Squash Income,	Up 17k
SCFC Income	Up 22k
1000 club	Down (10k)

The overall margin across the board is 70.68%, up slightly from last year (70.06%).

The margin reflects the gross profit on all revenue streams.

Breaking this down a little bit, as often the largest point of contention is the margin achieved on bar sales, in the year both the Falcon and Windscale bars achieved a margin of 56%.

This is slightly up from last year and slightly higher than similar clubs we act for.

A consistent margin implies good controls/diligence and that suppliers price changes are being passed onto customers.

In terms of overheads, total spent (again, net of VAT) has increased by £91k.

The main drivers behind this were as follows: -

Wages, Up 42k

Main issue is seemingly increases in NLW and inflationary pressures.

Light, heat, and Power, Up 42k.

The committee concluded that the 'additional' costs in the year amount to circa £40k.

Repairs and renewals, Up 10k

Roof/gas pipe repairs ('one off' costs) amounted to some £40k in the year.

Rates, Up19k

The prior year was an anomaly as circa 25k had been received in Water Rates rebate.

Albeit there is a loss of £85k in the year, £15k of this relates to depreciation which is obviously a non-cash expense. If we also consider the one-off hits in terms of energy and repairs costs then it is not inconceivable that, all things being equal, the company is able to break even going forward.

Balance Sheet

Cash at bank at the year-end was £54k; down from £125k last year. Obviously, this is due to operating losses in the year.

There is still sufficient cash to deal with working capital requirements but things are a bit tighter than what they were. There was a total of £143k creditors as at the year end. Circa £25k of this relates to a bounce back loan that is obviously repayable over x no of years. In addition, £26k of the £143k creditors relates to grants that (as least in theory) could be repaid and hence their value stays on the balance sheet. In time, these grants will be written off to the profit and loss account.

The total 'Members' funds' amount to circa £15k. This in some ways is very misleading as the balance sheet carries the value of assets at cost. The freehold is owned by the company but cost nothing so the market value (per the accounts) is £nil. There is no requirement, nor pressing need, to revalue the property to current market value.

Corporation Tax

The company is not specifically exempt from corporation tax but there is a mutual trading element to the club; thus there are some tax 'breaks'. Nonetheless, the club has £75k worth of trading losses so these would need to be utilised before any corporation tax liability arose.

Question raised by Ian Richardson regarding the value in the accounts for Fixed Assets- Tangible Assets which appeared low vs. the recent insurance exercise which concluded a higher value. Stephen explained the value which had been used noting its origins and suggested that it was in the business advantage to leave unchanged should the business look to seek grant funding to support future development.

There were no other questions.

Approval of the accounts, these had previously been approved at an Executive Meeting (July 2024) to allow presentation to the AGM.

Notice of Motions.

No notices were put forward for consideration at the meeting.

Appointment of Directors to SASRA Limited

In accordance with Byelaw 13 amended in 2018 to remove the requirement for 3 Directors to stand down the current executive is currently one member below the maximum (9).

One nomination was received Dr Charles Potter, this was accepted by the meeting.

Note: Charles agreed to becoming a SASRA Director subject to a review of the SASRA Articles of Association.

The Executive for 2023/24 will therefore comprise;

Chairman – Geoff Turrell

Directors – Ian Richardson, Graham Robinson, Alice Thompson, Andrew Lee, Phillip Robinson, David Hetherington, Sharon Gallagher, Charles Potter.

No vacancies remain.

Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 18:45hrs.

I Richardson
September 2024.