

EASTBOURNE HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at the York House Hotel, Eastbourne on **Wednesday 24th April** at 8.00 pm

PRESENT

Mr Steve Jordan	-	Chairman
Mr Mark Cotman	-	1 st Vice Chairman
Mrs Kathryn Vincent	-	Association Secretary

and approximately 35 Members, Associate Members and guests

- 1 **Chairman welcomed** everyone present. The Chairman thanked the members for coming this evening and for their continued support throughout the year. He thanked the Integro Insurance Brokers for sponsoring the wine for the evening.
- 2 **Formal Notice of Meeting** was read by Ambassador, Ron Brooker.
- 3 **Minutes** of the AGM held 11th April 2018 were agreed as correct - proposed by Dave Brachtvogel and seconded by Chulin Xia, all in favour, signed by Chairman.
- 4 **Apologies** - a list of apologies for absence was read out.
- 5 **Scrutineers** - as there was only one nominee for each office, scrutineers were not required.
- 6 **Presentations** – a cheque for £374 was presented to Beachy Head Chaplaincy. A further cheque, for £324 will be posted to SERV Bloodrunners.
- 7 **Annual Report and Accounts** – Karen Cheater explained that, despite having been submitted in good time, the Accounts had been very late in arriving, having only come in that day, so it not been possible to circulate them prior to the meeting. She gave a summary of the Accounts and explained that the deficit of £11,457 was mainly due to the repair works to Kestrel House along with the fee for joining the Primary Authority Partnership. The bank balance is looking healthy, and memberships have remained steady. Once further scrutinised and approved, the Accounts will be circulated to all members.

Steve thanked Karen for her work as Treasurer over the past two years, a post from which she is now stepping down. He also took the opportunity to thank the other outgoing Executive members – Howard Simpson, Gaynor Sedgwick and Derek Holdrup.
- 8 **Appointment of Patron and President**

Patron – Stephen Lloyd MP will remain in office for a further term.

President - Jonathan Webley will remain in office for a further term.
- 9 **Election of Officers**
 - a) **Chairman** – Steve Jordan – Southcroft - remains in office. The Chairman, Steve Jordan, advised all positions were unopposed and declared the following nominees elected:-
 - b) **Vice President** – Dave Brachtvogel – Beamsley Lodge – remains in office.
 - c) **1st Vice Chairman** – Mark Cotman – York House Hotel – remains in office.
 - d) **2nd Vice Chairman** – Kristian Hayter – Beach Front.
 - e) **Hon Treasurer** – this position is currently vacant.
 - f) **Executive Committee**

Under 21 Bedroom Group: No voting required, **Chairman** declared the following elected

Melanie Stratford – Cherry Tree, Judith Brown - Sheldon and Nick Samuels - Reymar. One vacancy remains for this position.

21/75 Bedroom Group: No voting required, **Chairman** declared the following elected: Dr. Chulin Xia, Cumberland Hotel, Heidi Cowderoy – East Beach. One vacancy remains for this position.

Over 75 Bedroom Group: No voting required, **Chairman** declared the following elected: Matthew Huddart – The View, Catherine Clifford – Lansdowne Hotel. Two vacancies remain for this position.

Holiday Flats Group: this position is currently vacant.

Trade: No voting required, **Chairman** declared David Ruddle – Best of Eastbourne elected.

Attractions: No voting required, **Chairman** declared Alex Adams – Royal Hippodrome Theatre elected.

Pubs & Restaurants: No voting required, **Chairman** declared Shoes Simes – The Dewdrop & The Eagle elected.

g) **Social Committee Chairman:** **Chairman** declared Yvette Cowderoy – Atlanta elected.

h) The Association Solicitors will continue to be Mayo Wynne Baxter.

10 **Chairman's Presentation**

Steve said that he begun his tenure as Chairman with an aim to increase memberships. To this end, he had arranged a deal with the Chamber of Commerce for reduced memberships. In the year to date, the EHA have gained 11 Trade members, 10 Accommodation members, 5 Restaurant/Attraction members and 2 Social members.

Other achievements/highlights over the past year include:

- Increased membership of Visit Eastbourne
- Raised the profile of the EHA at town events
- A reduction won for those members with under 20 bedrooms on their Business Rates. On this note, Allison Brachtvogel advised everyone to check their bills as some base rates are not showing as reduced.
- The EHA were mentioned in a report to the House of Lords on CMA's.
- Membership of the Primary Authority.
- Social Newsletter launched. Steve thanked Yvette and Mark Cowderoy for their work on this.
- Airbourne Fireworks at the Bandstand – the event had over 150 attendees and we will be doing it again this year.
- Towner Gallery evening.
- Free cyber awareness course run by Southern IT.
- Metro Bank reception.
- Dinner Dance at the Lansdowne Hotel, for which there was 95 attendees.
- 50% off Chamber of Commerce membership for EHA members.

Steve said that the new Executive Committee will be meeting shortly and will be discussing a direction for the future. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas, they should let their representative know.

There has been no increase in membership fees for four consecutive years.

Steve asked Allison Brachtvogel to talk the meeting through the 2019 Passport, on which she has been working. This should arrive at the beginning of next week and will be available to collect from Beamsley Lodge.

Steve said that the next General Meeting will be held on 22nd May at the Hydro Hotel.

Looking Forward

- The Congress theatre has now re-opened after extensive works.
- Phil Evans has promised to send through a list of potential conferences that the Tourism dept. is working to secure.
- Once the new Devonshire Quarter Welcome Building is open, there will be a tour for EHA members.
- The Beacon is progressing and will be completed this year.
- Roadworks are due to be completed by September this year.
- The second phase of the refurbishment works at the Hippodrome is almost complete. Steve reminded everyone about the invitation to attend the Hippodrome's Civic Night on 1st May.

11 **Any Other Business**

- a. Howard Simpson asked if there was any update on Bistro Pierre – the new restaurant at the Wish Tower site. Annie Wills said that it was due to open in July.
- b. Allison Brachtvogel asked about the security around the Beach Huts, as they are being vandalised frequently. Annie said that the glass doors on the Spyglass are due to be replaced with wooden doors as these are being smashed.

Steve thanked the York House for hosting the meeting and the attendees for coming.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45 pm

Signed by
Steve Jordan
Chairman

Signed by
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Executive Committee Member

