

Minutes of The Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of CUOSC held at Foxy's Restaurant, Brunton Park, Carlisle on Sunday July 23 2017

Board/Officers Attendance	Apologies/ Absent
John Kukuc* (Chair) Alastair Woodcock (Secretary) Mike Denovellis* (Vice-Chair) Norman Steel* Jim Mitchell* Billy Atkinson* Frank Beattie* Carol Wilson* Malcolm Nugent*	Peter Harrington (Treasurer) Nigel Davidson*
All Board members marked with an asterisk Other officers as indicated	
Other Members attending: E Corrie, K Ellison, D Forrester, T Graham, G Graves, I Gray, L Gray, J Hamilton, PH Irving, D Johnston, D Mitchell, I Monkhouse, J Myron, I Pooley, J Pooley, R Stainforth, I Wilson	

Resolutions:

1. *To receive the reports of the Society's board and the audited financial statements for the period ending 31st January 2017.*

2. *To elect to the Board of the Society*

Malcolm Nugent (Membership No. 738)
Carol Wilson (Membership No. 1633)
John Kukuc (Membership No. 1791)
Nigel Davidson (Membership No. 1814)

3. *It is hereby resolved that subject to the provisions of section 4A of the 1968 Friendly and Industrial and Provident Societies Act, the members of the Society shall not require an audit for the accounts covering the current financial year ending on 31 January, 2018 when they are presented to the next AGM held in 2018.*

NOTE: An independent financial examination shall be undertaken in its place.

4. *To authorise the Society Board to fix the remuneration of the auditors.*

NOTE: Although the Society would not ordinarily be required to hold a full audit, as per resolution 3, the examination of the accounts still requires qualified auditors

Votes that had come in via post, in person or electronically before the date of the AGM had been counted and checked in advance. Votes cast on the day were then counted and checked.

Results of the ballot:

Resolution 1:
For 72 Against 2 Abstained 2

Resolution 2:
To elect Malcolm Nugent – For 71 Against 3 Abstained 2
To elect Carol Wilson – For 69 Against 4 Abstained 3
To elect John Kukuc – For 69 Against 4 Abstained 3
To elect Nigel Davidson – For 68 Against 5 Abstained 3

Resolution 3
For 69 Against 7 Abstained 0

Resolution 4
For 72 Against 4 Abstained 0

All resolutions carried.

Mike Denovellis had tendered his resignation from the board due to family commitments. His resignation takes effect from the date of this AGM. The board paid tribute to his immense contribution over a period of two years.

There being no further business, the formal part of the meeting was closed.

A question & answer session followed.

Notes from this session:

Jim Mitchell (CUOSC rep on 1921 Board) was questioned about a fake 'memo' purporting to be sent by him that had been reported on The Cumbrians.net messageboard. Jim reiterated he did not send the memo and there was no way of knowing if an actual email had ever been sent out in his name.

Billy Atkinson (CUOSC rep on Holdings Board) said the money spent on players this season was likely to be much the same as last year. The facility from Edinburgh Woollen Mill (EWM) couldn't be used to extend the Salary Cost Management Protocol (SCMP) limit. Jim said the club was close to the SCMP limit and finances remained tight.

There were suggestions from the floor that the wages of the Chief Executive and other recent appointments were excessive. Jim said that, in his opinion, the expenditure on Nigel Clibbens was 'worth it'. He had helped provide better financial and other management information. He also listened to the CUOSC point of view and engaged better with supporters generally. He had also supported the change in attitude of the owners to CUOSC, said Billy.

A question was asked about the EWM facility. Billy said that EWM, as a major sponsor, had taken some interest in the negotiations with the overseas investor. The owner of EWM wanted to put something back into the community of Carlisle. The facility provided works more like an overdraft and takes the reliance off Andrew Jenkins. Jim said that the engagement by EWM may conceivably lead to something more substantial in future. The owners have indicated that they would sell if the right offer came in, from whatever source.

A question was posed about the Checktrade Trophy decision. The club had voted to continue with the present set-up involving Premier League 'B' Teams, despite the strong opposition of supporters and CUOSC. The decision had been taken on financial grounds.

It was suggested from the floor that a lot of fans were still staying away due to the current individual owners. Billy said, Nigel Clibbens had been brought in partly for this reason. A comment from the floor was made that Nigel simply provided 'a new face' for supporters to have a go at. Billy said, that might be the case but we have to say, last season we had larger crowds than previously, and this season, the club have sold more season tickets than the previous year.

Norman Steel stated a personal opinion was that there was 'no smoke without fire' when it came to the recent winding up order that had included the club's name on a list. Jim said, it was no mystery that the club had been struggling financially, and the facility from EWM was necessary to meet outgoings and provide some flexibility. He said the club had shown ambition by investing in players so, as to be able to push for promotion. We are now feeling to some extent the ongoing effects of that.

John Kukuc stated that the Keith Curle player acquisition strategy is 'quality' over 'quantity'. The club had consistently backed him despite the cash constraints. Andrew Jenkins had provided a 'gift' in January to allow him to sign new players. Crowd funding money had helped pay for Samir Nabi who had signed a contract in the summer.

A question tweeted to the meeting was then asked: Was the EWM facility a 'loan of last resort'? Billy said no, as Andrew Jenkins could still have provided the funds for the club, had no other avenue been available. However, the plan was to reduce reliance on Andrew.

The final question concerned CUOSC being both a Trust and a supporters' club. Could it function effectively as both? Jim said, Yes but CUOSC couldn't be part of the club with two Directors, whilst expressing constant criticisms, as some supporters want us to do. Frank said influence was better achieved when 'inside the tent' rather than trying to knock it down from the outside. Norman stressed that legally CUOSC remained and had merely changed its trading name to CUOSC.

Summary of voting:

Members at time of AGM: 630

Members eligible to vote at the AGM: 604

Votes cast by post : 12

Votes cast electronically: 55

Votes cast at the AGM: 9

Spoilt ballot papers: 0

Date & venue of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting :

To Be Announced