

Edinburgh Fencing Club Annual General Meeting 2021

Date: 21/06/2021

Attendance:

- **Committee:** Paul Neil-Maclochlan (President), Don McKenzie (Coach Rep), Anja Kirchof (Web Officer), Andrea Manning (Membership Secretary), Alex McLeod (Treasurer), Marco Bauder (Secretary), Martin Buckley (Covid Officer/Armourer)
- **Other Members:** 16 members***
- Voting Members Present: 23*, Non-Voting Members Present: 0
- *some members arrived as the motions were being debated, hence discrepancy in total vote numbers

Agenda:

1. Approval of Last AGM Minutes
2. Club Finance Report
3. Club Activity Report
4. Reform Motions
5. Committee Elections
6. Any Other Business

Minutes:

Paul welcomes everyone to the meeting, thanks everyone for taking the time to attend. Paul then hands the floor to Marco, who shares his screen with the AGM slides. Marco introduces himself as the new club Secretary and starts the agenda:

1. Approval of Last AGM Minutes:
 - a. Marco outlines that the Minutes of the last AGM, 2018 are not available, and would not be very relevant in any case, but that the EGM minutes from 2019 are available to anyone on demand. No requests have been received.
 - b. There was no AGM in 2020 due to Covid, so no previous minutes are really available for approval. The meeting moves on.
2. Club Finance Report:
 - a. Marco gives a quick summary of the club finances for the past 1.5 years, with further detail available to the members in advance of the AGM. Fundamentally, the club's finances remain just about breaking even as of the date of data, and the club maintains a reserve of just under £34,000, which leaves it in a stable position to continue weathering the current crisis.
 - b. No questions from attendees.
3. Club Activity Report:
 - a. Activity has ground to a halt over the past 15 months due to the ongoing pandemic.
 - b. U18 fencing remains possible with restrictions, resumption of over 18 fencing is as yet to be determined and dependent on government restrictions

- c. The committee has cancel any further club fencing until mid-August, due to lack of numbers, restrictions, and losses on bookings
- d. In more positive news, the club intends to use this downtime to
 - i. Pursue charity registration
 - ii. Inventory, update and create new policies as appropriate
 - iii. Create and publish new fencing pathways to allow for more structured development of fencers
 - iv. Seriously explore the possibility of moving to a new, permanent venue
- e. No questions were asked as this time

Marco explains the rules and mechanics of voting at the AGM, some discussion around how to raise hands digitally, but matters are resolved eventually.

4. Motions:

Motion 1: It is moved that, for the remainder of this meeting, the Club set aside the voting rules set out in the old EFC constitution - which limits voting to members over 18 - and instead use the voting rules from the new constitution, which grants the right to:

- i. all members over 16,
 - ii. one parent or guardian of any member under 16
- Marco explains that without this motion, only fully fencing members over 18 would have a vote, effectively excluding committee, coaches, and denying representation to younger fencers.
 - No dissent, moves straight to vote - though votes lower on this vote as fewer eligible to vote at this time.

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion 2: It is moved that Edinburgh Fencing Club should pursue incorporation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation as soon as possible;

- Marco briefly reiterates the benefits of being a charity, including easier access to grants, better governance structures and supervision, limited liability for trustees, etc.
- A few questions on the detail are answered
- No speakers against

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion 3: The Club approves the new Constitution presented to the membership on June 6th, 2021, which will take effect immediately;

- Marco briefly covers the new structure of the club, with a diagram in the powerpoint, outlining the new system of members, committee and trustees.
- Question raised by Paul around whether we are still able to appoint external Trustees and committee members for good governance. This is still the case, the committee and Trustees may recruit others to serve on committee throughout the year, but they then stand for election at the next AGM.
- No speakers against

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion 4: The Club directs the Committee to explore moving the club to its own dedicated 24/7 fencing hall at the earliest convenient opportunity

- Marco again outlines the potential benefits that this move might have for the long term stability of the club
- A member raises an amendment that would enshrine the aims of the club in the wording of the motion - that the club should be dedicated to all 3 weapons and all ability groups.
 - It is suggested that the membership would have to be consulted again in any case before a final decision is made
 - It is agreed by member who proposed the amendment that a change confirming member approval for any sale would be a suitable compromise

Amendment Proposed: The Club directs the Committee to explore moving the club to its own dedicated 24/7 fencing hall at the earliest convenient opportunity *and submit a proposal to the membership for approval*

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion on New Clause 4: The Club directs the Committee to explore moving the club to its own dedicated 24/7 fencing hall at the earliest convenient opportunity and submit a proposal to the membership for approval

For: 21

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion 5: As per the new Constitution, the Committee Moves that the 2021/22 EFC Committee should include, but not be limited to: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Secretary, Covid Officer, Coaching Representative, Web Officer

- Marco explains that the new constitution encourages us to set the minimum required positions for the Committee, but that this list is not exclusive or exhaustive, and allows for further roles and "Members without portfolio" as needed.
- No speakers against

For: 21
Against: 0
Abstentions: 1

5. Elections:

- a. President
 - i. Paul Neil-MacLochlan is willing to stand again, no one else nominates themselves.
 - ii. Paul re-elected unanimously
- b. Secretary & Treasurer
 - i. No one but Marco Bauder would like to stand for Treasurer, but this creates a vacancy at Secretary, for which there are also no volunteers.
 - ii. After some discussion by the membership, it is agreed that Marco will temporarily fill both roles, aiming to find a volunteer for one of them as soon as possible, ideally by the end of July
 - iii. Marco elected unanimously
- c. Membership Secretary
 - i. Andrea Manning is willing to stand again, no one else nominates themselves
 - ii. Andrea is re-elected unanimously
- d. Covid Officer
 - i. Martin Buckley is willing to stand again, no one else nominates themselves
 - ii. Martinis re-elected unanimously
- e. Coaching Representative
 - i. Don Mackenzie is willing to stand again, no one else nominates themselves
 - ii. Don is re-elected unanimously
- f. Web Officer
 - i. Anja Kirchhof is willing to stand again, no one else nominates themselves
 - ii. Anja is re-elected

6. Any Other Business:

- a. No other business raised

Paul thanks all for attending, meeting concludes.

*** The internal and external minutes of this AGM are identical, but names of ordinary members have been redacted in the external copy.