

The Monday Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 13/1/25

Attending: James Smith, John Williamson, Sati McKenzie, Marcia Marriott, Andrew Stimson, Delia Perry, Leo Zeglovskis, Fauzia Crockford, John Helps, John Kemball, Charles Moore, Sophie Holland, Nigel Tonkin, Jacqui Bowers, Charles Dixon, Annamarie Critchard, Hilary Grundy, Andy Wakefield, Graham Wickham, Martin Knight, Mike Garlick

Apologies: Kate Woodruff, David Solomon, Christine Garner, Rita O’Gorman, Jill Shortman, Don Goodwin, Brian Appleyard

Agenda:

- 1) **Minutes of 2024 AGM:** The chair mentioned a couple of minor inaccuracies in the minutes. These were ratified by those present (proposed by Sati; seconded by Leo). No questions were raised.
- 2) **Chair’s report:** This report is on the website.
- 3) **Treasurer’s report:** A report of the accounts for the year January – December 2023-24 was circulated and Sati talked us through the accounts (also on the website). Further discussion of this was postponed until item 5 on the agenda.
- 4) **Election of Officers:** There were no nominations to the Committee and the current 5 officers were duly re-elected.
- 5) **BLC and rent rise:** James told the meeting that, after the Christmas party, he had received a letter from the BLC saying they were proposing putting up the rent for the use of the room from £70:00 - £95:00 per week. This is a large rise, which will mean us running at a loss unless we have 6 ½ tables every week. James told the meeting that he had called a committee meeting to discuss this. We have the option of moving to Huguenot Place and there would be some advantages to this. He had also been to visit the Northcote and done some research into other options, but not come up with anything as good as either the BLC or Huguenot Place. On balance, the Committee felt that the BLC is our preferred venue, because of its excellent transport connections, the bar and the size of the room. The Committee proposed that we stay at the BLC for the year (without raising the table

money – this was last raised only 2 years ago) and reassess our financial situation later in the year.

There was considerable discussion about this, including suggestions that we should raise table money immediately or should increase the annual subscription.

Annamarie proposed that the meeting should accept the Committee's decision to stay at the BLC for the time being and that the agreement should be that, if the financial situation deteriorates, they should have the power to raise the table money to £7:00 with 4 weeks' notice. James was urged to try to negotiate a lower price and Annamarie would also look into alternative venues in the Borough. This was voted on and all present voted in favour, with one negative vote.

6) AOB: i) We agreed last year to do at least one Sim Pairs competition during the year and this did not happen. John Helps offered to look into this.

ii) Competitions (now supposed to be sacred days with no funerals!):
The membership were reminded of the dates, which are on the website.