

HIGHLAND WOODTURNERS CLUB, Club Premises, Munloch Village Hall

AGM 2023 - THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 6.45pm at Munloch

MINUTES

The Chairman Alec Mutch welcomed everyone to the 2023 AGM. A total of 19 members were in attendance.

1. To receive and adopt the Minutes from the previous AGM of 3rd February 2022

These were proposed by Errol Levings & seconded by David Line with one minor amendment to Item 2 – delete the name Ross and insert the name Stewart. Agreed by all present.

2. To receive and adopt the Chairperson's report.

See attached report. The Chairperson Alec Mutch presented a 3 page report.

The request for anyone with any questions to bring them to the meeting's attention at any time. He has been Chairman for 4 years and he thanked the Committee for their great help in running the Club.

3. To receive and adopt the Treasurer's report and verified annual accounts covering the affairs of the Club during the previous year.

The Treasurer Alan Geddes presented his report *which is attached below*. Copies of the Statement of Income and Expenditure to 31st December 2022, which are signed by G Potter and P Lawrence were distributed. AG highlighted the figures in the statement. There was a deficit of £900 for the year. It was noted that the electricity had only been paid for the first quarter in 2022. Payment for vital work, equipment and materials had resulted in the deficit. However the Club has a healthy bank balance.

AG invited any questions. A member highlighted an apparent 4 fold increase in rent. This was explained by the previous years accounts having only included part of the rent as the Hall had granted the HWC a rent holiday because of Covid. In fact there was a modest increase in the rent which was agreed with the Hall but this also included our much enlarged area with the new workshop.

AG also presented his proposals for the membership fees. He proposed that the current long standing £40 fee be increased to £50 due to the deficit mentioned before. He also proposed that a 20% reduction would be made for additional Family members in the same household. These proposals were unanimously approved. A similar 20% reduction for Junior Members was considered by David Ross as being too much. After discussion a 50% reduction was unanimously approved for Juniors aged 12 to 16 years.

4. To vote for or against the adoption of the proposed Amended Constitution.

The Secretary Geoff Potter read out the proposed changes to the Constitution – the change to the membership year, fee payment due by end of February and signatories for HWC bank cheques. GP requested any comments. There were none. Adoption of the amended Constitution was proposed by David Hutcheson, seconded by David Hobson and approved unanimously by all present.

5. To dissolve the current Committee.

The current Committee was dissolved and the outgoing Secretary GP requested nominations for the role of Chairperson.

6. The election and appointment of the new Chairperson.

Alec Mutch was proposed by Stephen Dunphy and seconded by David Line. AM was unanimously elected as HWC Chairperson by all present.

7. The election of the rest of the Committee.

Continuing Committee Members - Peter Lawrence, Geoff Potter, John Ruickbie, Errol Levings, Nick Simpson, Susan Drew, Alan Smith, David Hobson, David Line, Alan Geddes and proposed new Committee Member Joe Webster were all proposed by David Ross and seconded by Stephen Dunphy. These 11 no. proposed members were elected unanimously to the Committee by all present.

8. To receive and decide on any other competent motions on the running of the Club.

None

9. END OF MEETING

Chairman's report for HWC 2023 AGM.

Welcome everyone to our 2023 AGM.

As Chairman it's my responsibility to give you all a report on the club's interactions over the past year, and it's current position, let me tell you this was only possible with the co-operation and the good will of the current committee and our members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support especially your committee, without their expertise and dedication on certain matters none of this would have happened, and for that I am truly grateful, I do wish to continue as a member, committee member and your chairman if invited to do so.

Covid was still with us at the time of the last AGM in 2022 and we were still operating under the guidance rules set down by our government, that meant we had to be distance aware, use sanitizer and face masks, we also introduced the seated only meetings until the 14th April when some more of the restrictions were relaxed.

One of the downsides of the pandemic that came about was a considerable drop out of members in February 2022, the date for renewing memberships, we lost about a dozen members who simply did not renew their membership after the pandemic. On the plus side of that there was a waiting list that we used to attract more new members, most of these were contacted and most took up the opportunity to join. As a result of this increase in new members there was also an increase in the amount of people looking to get some tuition on woodturning.

We set up a system to provide training for our members, that programme started under Nick Simpson's leadership on the 10th March 2022.

We had halted all competitions during the pandemic, we were now considering starting them again, this time with a new management structure and system, this was to be referred to a later meeting for discussion and a decision, the outcome was to hold a Christmas competition only this year.

Our maintenance organizer John Ruickbie came up with a plan to upgrade our layout with designated zones, protective screens for the lathes and chains to restrict access for viewing members from encroaching on the turners, your committee agreed to go ahead with the plan and it was implemented.

We negotiated the takeover of the Hall's storeroom that we were formally using for holding some blanks and wood, it would now be permanently leased to us for our exclusive use. The maintenance team and some of the members did the work of putting a new power supply in, setting up a work bench, some shelves and had the whole room re-painted. This allowed us to move the bandsaw and pillar drill into this workroom, in July your committee agreed to purchase some more equipment for the workroom, later in the year a planer thicknesser was purchased and that too is now in the workroom.

By the end of March the training programme had started and was going well under Nick Simpson's leadership, the emphasis was on good safe working practices being the objective.

In September we got the very bad news that Cliff Sim our treasurer had died after a short illness, Cliff had been a member for many years and was well respected as a member and our treasurer, he would be sadly missed. This has led us onto there being a requirement for a small change on the constitution in financial matters, all of which will be made clear later in this meeting.

We had been working with 11 on the committee prior to Cliff's death, now down to 10 we needed to get some new members onto the committee, these were to be Susan Drew and Alan Smith both accepted the positions on the committee. David Ross also stepped down from the committee this year for personal reasons, I'm sure the members would like to thank David for his contributions to the club, although David has dropped out of the committee for the time being he is still on the training team handled by Nick Simpson, and remains a regular attendee to our meetings.

Another piece of sad news was the death of Uisdean Macbeth in mid November, Uisdean had been a member for many years and a regular attendee to our meetings, again he will be sadly missed.

Looking to the future.

Our club is in a very good position, we have currently 58 members, the improvements that we have undertaken this year have been quite considerable making our club a far safer place to be and something I think we should all be proud of. There are still things to do, improvements to be made in 2023 and I'm sure with the committee's and members help we will make more changes for the better. We are forced to review our membership fee's at this meeting due to the large increase in the price of almost everything, we still think the club gives you very good value for your money.

Your Chairman.

Alec Mutch. 2nd February 2023.

HWC Treasurers Report Accounts for year ended December 2022

The year has been the first full operating period since Covid-19 and has seen a complete programme of Club meetings and activities.

As can be seen from the statement our expenditure exceeded our income during the year resulting in a deficit of £929.46. This left a bank balance of £1502.07 at the year end. It should be noted there has only been one payment made for hall electricity of £88 during the year and at this stage I am unclear as to whether further payments are to be made for last year as the sum requested referred to "first quarter". Efforts are ongoing to establish whether further payments will be required.

On the expenditure side we now have a full year rent cost of £1640. Equipment costs of £1447 were incurred. The main items were the purchase of a new set of Vicmarc chuck and jaws (£509), a second hand planer thicknesser for the workshop (£400), Tormek sharpening equipment (£320) and various smaller items such as bandsaw blades, an impact drill and camera equipment.

Materials came to a cost of £1214. There were two main elements consisting of the electrical and ventilation rewiring items (£960), internal redecoration and painting items (£133) and the remainder went on Tormek sanding and other consumables. A vote of thanks goes to all the voluntary work undertaken by individual club members in the electrical and redecoration activity involved.

On the income side subscriptions amounted to £2130 for the year, and our fortnightly raffle generated an income of just over £1300. The Xmas raffle generated surplus of £265 and thanks needs to also go to club members who made voluntary donations of prizes which equally contribute to the success of this event.

The new initiative of the training programme raised a very welcome contribution of £325 towards club funds and a big vote of thanks is due to all the volunteers involved in that development.

The accounts have been checked and signed off by Peter Lawrence and Geoff Potter. My thanks to both.

Alan Geddes Treasurer
Highland Woodturners Club
1st February 2023