

Dear Member, January 2021

On Tuesday 12th January 2021, the General Committee held another 'virtual' meeting to discuss the financial impact of the resumption of coach rambles, the new 'second tier' restrictions and the temporary method of conducting the 2021 Annual General Meeting. Here is a summary of the discussions and agreed actions emanating from that meeting.

- The Committee meeting was well attended and chaired by the Club's President Norman Dixon; who expressed thanks to Tony Anderson for organising and hosting the 'Zoom' meeting.
- The committee were advised that the four coach rambles run after the resumption had resulted in a loss of £679.00. The lost being attributed to the limited numbers allowed on the coach, members reticence to travel on the coach and the desire of some members to cancel rambling for the time being. Whilst this amount of financial loss could be met from the Club's current funds, this level of loss would not be sustainable for a protracted period of time.
- The committee were advised that the new 'second tier' of restrictions were more severe and meant that the Club had no option but to cease all rambles (local as well as coach) and all social events until such time when the current restrictions are lifted.
- The General Secretary, Ivan Martin advised the committee that the normal practice of holding the AGM by a meeting in St Olave's church hall could not proceed under the current restrictions. As a temporary measure he suggested that the membership be circulated with notice for the election of the 2021 committee and other AGM business. Responses for the election of the committee and other comments would be collated and discussed at a virtual meeting of the committee on the 9th February. (the AGM due date). This procedure was agreed and that members are to be contacted by email or personal post.
- One of the tasks of the committee was to recommend at the AGM the membership and coach cost fee for the coming year. The Treasurer, Tony Anderson told the committee that he had conducted an 'in depth' review of the Club's finances. He revealed that the annual membership fee did not cover the administrative costs of running the club, and that the surplus generated by the coach rambles was contributing to the club's administration costs. This review and financial projections were debated by a small sub-committee and they advised that in view of the club's lack of activity during the past year, an uncertain future and the financial healthy state of the club, that a membership fee of £5.00 and coach fee of £12.00 should be recommended at the AGM.
- The committee learnt that a past member, Bernard Emmel, had left a legacy of £500.00 to the club. Bernard had been a stalwart of the club for many years and we are grateful for his generous gift. Our President, Norman Dixon has made a suitable response on behalf of the club to Bernard's family.
- The overall aim of the committee during this difficult time was to ensure that the club remained 'active' in some form or other. The recent imposition of tighter restrictions has made that desire much more difficult, but we will keep trying. Where possible please keep an eye on the club's website for information, the odd quiz and photos of past, happy days rambling. Stay well and safe.

Ivan Martin, General Secretary