

Club de Chalet Blanc AGM 16.02.24

Summary of Rhian-Anwen Hamill's opening comments

Rhian-Anwen Hamill began the meeting with Sylvie van Berchem and George Bergengren. Rhian spoke first and what follows is a summary of what she said, prepared from her speaking notes.

Rhian requested the members' permission to break with the agenda in order to discuss the spending that had occurred on the annex project and, more broadly, the club's financial condition, on the basis that everything else on the proposed agenda depended on members being adequately briefed on those issues. Rhian stated the priority would be that members should get complete answers to all their questions.

Rhian proposed to speak first with Sylvie and George, as members from the wider committee, then hand to Joakim as Treasurer, then to Alex as outgoing president.

Member's permission having been granted, Rhian began by providing some background on committee member roles (Sylvie - food; George - sports; and Rhian - membership applications); explained absences (Rory in South Africa, and Guy dealing with medical issues); and announced resignations of Fred Turrettini (secretary) who resigned 22nd Dec 2023, and Felix Bonnier (buildings) who resigned one week later.

On behalf of Rhian, George, Rory and Sylvie, Rhian explained that they had no knowledge of the annex spending before they were alerted to it by Guy in the week after Christmas, her understanding being that Guy and Winston Ginsberg had discovered the extent of the spending gradually from their work in the annex project committee.

Since being advised of the spending, the committee had been working hard and spending a lot of time trying to establish answers to the following questions:

- What exactly was spent on what, when and how it was authorised;
- Why the money was spent;
- What if any legal obligations were entered into by the president with Mr Burrus and/or his associates;
- Whether there were any further spending commitments/liabilities; and
- Which, if any, elements of the spending could be recovered

Rhian explained that the committee didn't have the complete answers but that they had concluded:

- (i) that the spending considerably exceeded what they would have anticipated at this stage of the project, given that the club didn't yet have a lease in place.
- (ii) that they could not yet establish that the spending was properly authorised in accordance with the rules of the association.
- (iii) that they believed that Alex had authorised the spending in good faith because he trusted that he would have a deal with the landlord and was motivated to get the club ready for members.

Rhian went on to say that the committee proposed that members do not accept the accounts and instead establish a financial and governance review with outside auditors to take place over the next month to look at both the annex spending and also the general financial condition of the club and the way it has been run. And that this should be overseen by the committee and a new independent group of members with relevant backgrounds.

Rhian went on to say that when the wider committee were told about the spending and the resignations of both the Secretary and the Member in charge of buildings, that they also wanted to resign in protest, however they also realised that this would significantly impair the committee's ability to do the necessary work. So instead, they stayed on to try to find out what had happened, and that in the subsequent weeks they have done that to the best of their ability.

Finally, Rhian stated that the committee remained in the service of members if members want them to stay on to help organise the next stage of the process.