

Minutes of the Hutt Valley Gymnastics Extra-Ordinary Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday, 29 October 2020 at 8:30pm

Present: Marion Cox (Chair), Sarah Burnell, Greg Marsden, Lynette Chin, Rebecca Hills, Deirdre Follett.
Guests: Nil

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all and noted that this meeting had been called due to inwards correspondence and a proposed motion. She apologised for the short notice but felt that this was beyond solely her role as Chair.

It was noted that apologies had been received from Ellen van Dijken (and later Darren Sears who missed the short-notice communications).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Inwards Correspondence

Brief discussion was held on the letter received from the Club Secretary, Deirdre Follett on 27 October 2020 outlining her concerns with the WAG Head Coach and Candidates undermining the Club's 2 November Annual General Meeting. Facebook posts had been made on a WAG exclusive page to 98 people. The posts introduced the WAG only candidates followed by a flow of comments and discussion around needing to have both sets of parents to come and vote for them.

Following this there were candidate statements shared by Rebecca Hills and Aaron Simmons prior to the publicised circulation of all Candidate Statements due today. This is far from the One Gym – One Team focus of the Strategic Plan.

The Secretary's concern was around a fair and open election and felt that this behaviour is unethical, unprofessional, and highly inappropriate conduct. All Candidate Statements should be shared as a whole, unlike the WAG Facebook posts that excluded: Sarah Burnell, Bridget Adair, Greg Marsden, Amy Wenden-Richardson and Deirdre Follett (all MAG parents). It was felt that this was a blatant political measure to obstruct a fair voting process for our Club.

The Secretary felt that this had intruded on her role of coordinating the AGM; advertising, promoting, and making sure all eligible voters are aware and included. On receipt of this letter, it was circulated to the full Committee and will be tabled at the next Committee meeting for discussion.

Motion

On receipt of the letter, Deputy-Chair Greg Marsden also expressed his concern that it will now be impossible to run an AGM which all parties deem fair and equitable, without follow on issues. He noted within the Club's Constitution that he hereby calls an Extraordinary Committee Meeting and table the following motion:

MOTION: THE RUNNING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE AGM BE HANDED OVER TO AND PRESIDED BY GYMNASTICS NEW ZEALAND IN ORDER TO ENSURE A FAIR AND EQUITABLE AGM AND PRE-PROCESS. GYMNASTICS NEW ZEALAND BE REQUESTED TO HOLD THE AGM WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THE CURRENT DATE. IN THE INTERIM THE CURRENT COMMITTEE TO STAY IN PLACE FOR GOVERNANCE PURPOSES BUT CONDUCT NO NEW BUSINESS. Greg Marsden.

He noted that this approach will allow all to step back, and a structured and equitable process put in place. After consideration, and a conversation with Gymnastics New Zealand, the Chair called the Zoom meeting to address the concerns outlined and to determine if the AGM could continue or if it were compromised.

Discussion and Feedback

Each attendee had the opportunity to share their thoughts and feedback. The Secretary shared feedback received earlier from member Ellen van Dijken. The general feeling was that of extreme disappointment in the manipulation of the election process. This Club is about the kids and their sport, not about people's self-interest.

Rebecca Hills apologised for her post on the WAG Facebook page and suggested she was being efficient and helpful in sharing it when she had just emailed her Candidate Statement. She said that nothing had been meant by it and she followed up with a text after the meeting with her apologies. Her post had been taken down along with Aaron Simmons'.

Even though process had been compromised, the Committee wanted the AGM to go ahead in good faith. Based on assurances from Rebecca Hills that it was not intended as a conspiracy, and was purely self-promotion for coming election, the Committee agreed:

MOTION: THE HUTT VALLEY GYMNASTICS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL CONTINUE IN GOOD FAITH WITH THE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS BEING CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS TODAY ACCOMPANIED WITH A LETTER ADVISING THAT THESE ARE THE FULL CANDIDATE PROFILES AS SOME HAD BEEN SHARED INDEPENDENTLY. Marion Cox/Greg Marsden. Agreed by all.

All Candidates will be advised of the situation in detail so that they are aware of it to avoid any surprises or ill feelings after the AGM. It was noted how fortunate the Club was to have the high level of candidates and hoped to use those that are not elected either by sub-committees or co-option.

CLOSE

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

I declare that these minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting:

Chairperson:

Date:
