

## UTS Haberfield Club

Minutes of the Twenty-Ninth **Annual General Meeting** of UTS Haberfield Club Ltd held at 7.27 pm on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021** at the UTS Haberfield Club, 1 Dobroyd Parade

---

Present:	Emeritus Professor Peter Booth, Chair Professor Prabhu Sivabalan, Treasurer Mr Cameron Kenney, CEO, ActivateUTS Professor Anita Stuhmcke Mr Jin Liu, Vice President, ActivateUTS Mr Rachael Chomik, President Mr Philip Wilkinson Mr Sinclair Taylor, President of the UTS Rowers Club
Attendees & Members:	Ms Tracey Longfield, CFO, ActivateUTS Mr Jim O'Brien Mr Oscar Williams Mr Richard Stewart Mr Kevin Lucas Mr Anthony Somerville Mr Andrew Black Ms Adelaide Guinness Mr Peter Waldersee Mr Michael McCrea Mr Pascal Lebreux, Hospitality Operations Manager, ActivateUTS Ms Paris Clayton, ActivateUTS (minutes) Mr Clayton Eveleigh, BDO Auditor
Apology	Mr Geoff McIntyre

---

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chair acknowledged the Gadigal & Wangal people of the Eora Nation & their elders past & present, upon whose ancestral land and water the UTS Haberfield Club now stands.

### **WELCOMES & APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed the Club members & Mr Clayton Eveleigh to the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM and thanked them and the Board directors for their attendance. The Chair noted the apology received from Mr Geoff McIntyre.

#### **RESOLUTION HB AGM 21/1**

**The members accepted the apology from Mr Geoff McIntyre.**

### **1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

The Chair asked for questions regarding the previous AGM meeting minutes. No questions arose.

#### **RESOLUTION HB AGM 21/2**

**The AGM minutes held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

### **2. 2020 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

*The 2020 Annual Financial Report was made available to all members via the Club website, in accordance with Rule 99 of the Club's Constitution.*

The Chair spoke of the extra challenging year due to the impact of the pandemic, the constraints, and impacts of the slow/gradual increase of activity. The Chair shared his gratitude for the government's job keeper initiative, which allowed the Club to retain much of its staff of which the Club would not have been able to afford without it.

The Chair commented that with the negative impacts of COVID-19 came a small bonus; the lockdown doubled the Kiosk business as people took advantage of the opportunity to leave the house during the restrictions and continued returning post the restrictions being lifted. The Chair added that the job keeper initiative ending, and the Club now needs to reflect on a future that is not dependent on staff costs supplements.

The Chair asked for questions relating to the 2020 Annual Financial Report. No questions arose.

**RESOLUTION HB AGM 21/3**

**The members accepted the 2020 Annual Financial Report.**

**3. ELECTION OF ELECTED MEMBER**

The Chair explained the structure of the Haberfield board to the members, as per Rule 50 of the Club's Constitution, and the need to reelect for the positions;

- *Six (6) Eligible Members are to be elected as directors of the Board by the Eligible Members at the Annual General Meeting; currently, those positions are occupied by Emeritus Professor Peter Booth (Chair), Professor Prabhu Sivabalan (Treasurer), Mr Cameron Kenney (Acting CEO), Ms Rachael Chomik (President), Mr Jinang Liu (Vice President) & Professor Anita Stuhmcke. All had been renominated for another term.*

**RESOLUTION HB AGM 21/4**

**The Chair declared the "eligible members" positions re-elected.**

- *One (1) UTS Rowing Club Incorporated Director, appointed by the Board of the Club; currently, Mr Sinclair Taylor (President of the Rowing Club).*

**RESOLUTION HB AGM 21/5**

**The Chair declared the "UTS Rowing Club Incorporated Director" position re-elected.**

- *One (1) Elected Member is to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club by the Ordinary Members.*

**RESOLUTION HB AGM 21/6**

**The Chair declared the "elected member" position a casual vacancy for the upcoming year, as there were no valid nominations by the closing date. The Chair explained that the Board can fill casual vacancies if they wish to.**

The Chair advised the members that Mr Andrew Black entered his nomination after the closing date, and the Chair will take that nomination to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

The Chair let the members know that if they are interested in the position, tell him after the formal proceedings so he can take it to the Board for consideration too.

A member asked if there are members not present at the AGM who are interested, can they write in and apply? The Chair advised; yes, the Board are always happy to hear from interested parties.

- *One (1) External Skill Director appointed by the Board of the Club*; currently vacant, a position that the Board can fill as it sees fit.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

The Chair reminded the Board of the discussion at the last AGM regarding the Club's future and its options. Although it was partly derailed by the pandemic, when the Club re-opened, it provided an opportunity to experiment with different options. The Chair explained that the Club had recently been experimenting with a new bistro-style brunch with a new menu.

The Chair also let the members know that the HOM, Mr Pascal Lebreux, and his team have been putting much effort into improving the service ratings on Google Review, which has increased to 3.9 stars. There has been positive feedback about the improved service and new menu options available, and the weekend crowds have been steady.

The Chair advised the members that they are currently looking at extending the opening days/hours (the Club is now open Saturday & Sunday, 8 am – 3 pm) to include Friday lunchtime, initially.

The Chair explained that they do not want to end up in a position where we are burning money by running on days that are not profitable and that they will need to closely monitor the gradual extended opening hours. Like most hospitality venues, staffing has been problematic. Another problem is that the Club can only offer staff limited hours.

The Chair let the members know that the Club is also experimenting with hosting more functions on the days the Club is closed to the public, which has been successful. The positive to holding functions is knowing that the event will make money if we accept, rather than opening and hoping that it will.

A member queried why the Club was closed the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. The HOM advised that the extractor fan in the kitchen had problems and was deemed a safety issue. It has since been repaired.

A member advised the Board that the Leichhardt Club model does not open on Monday & Tuesday, and he does not believe that they would be making much profit, if any, on a Wednesday & Thursday. The member added that he thought opening on a Friday lunch was a good model to begin with. The HOM commented that the Friday lunch offering is easy to achieve as they already have the staff available.

The Chair concluded his report by stating that they will continue working on the current model and extending the hours. He added that the Club's primary role is to provide a nice club that also provides an excellent facility for the rowing club.

A member added; and to be there for the local people, that is why the members are there today. The member goes on to say that at the end of last year's AGM, he thought, "why did I bother attending" because he believed the Board were happy to sit on the fence until they decide to move forward, and now the Club is starting to move forward, the member needs need to be a consideration. He added that many members used to come from all over to visit the Club, and some of those people believed it was a waste of time attending the AGM tonight. The member concluded that after attending tonight's meeting, and after hearing people speak tonight, he feels a lot more optimistic about the Clubs future. The member advised that he would pass on that feedback.

A member commented that other venues around the Leichhardt oval are overflowing with people when the games are on and that people want to drink when they are happy, and not so. A member

commented that several games were coming up soon, and with some advertisement, people will come to the venue. The member added that the soccer players are a target market, too, as they are within walking distance from the grounds.

A member raised an issue relating to people not receiving the AGM invite and other emails. He also did not get the Club's emails for a while. The CEO commented they would do some tests and investigate.

A member commented that he was glad to see that the new board structure and how it will help the members in their local suburb of which they had been coming for years, and it was good to see a group of people with lateral thinking come together and be opened to try and something different. The member advised the Board that he came with trepidation and is leaving feeling positive in the new turnaround.

The Chair added that there are sometimes uncontrollable risks, such as having a new chef starting, and the Club has experienced before with chefs that are a godsend and those that are not. The situation is unknown until they are here.

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and feedback.

**The meeting closed at 7.47 pm**