

The Fencing Institute

Minutes

Thursday 28th June 2018 8.30pm

Venue: The Fencing Institute, 91 Jack Hinton Drive, Addington, Christchurch

Attendance:

Oscar Aynsley, Chris Aynsley, Madelaine Barbaris, Alisha Bedggood, Martin Brill, Kate Brill, Tamsyn Campbell, Hamish Clarke, Rachel Clarke, Steve Clarke, Claire Cooper, Jonty Coulson, Gareth Foley, Connor Foley-Walker, Reuben Grick, Azaria Howell, Casper Howell, Liam James, Charlotte James, Karen Johnston, Richard Johnstone, Thomas Johnstone, Quinn Logan, Mikhail Lopez, Hugh Mercer-Bennelburg, Caleb Morrow, Sheldon Ogilvie, Leasa Ogilvie, Mark Ogilvie, Hugh Reynolds, Ross Shepherd, Moe Suzuki, Dylan Thomson

Apologies:

Jason Sims, Mark Rance

Gareth Foley welcomed everyone. He outlined the purposes of the meeting.

Incorporation of the club:

By way of background, Steve Clarke talked about how the original Fencing Institute was formed by the initial trustees, himself, Paul Silk and Gareth Foley. The building became available from the Christchurch City Council and they could see its potential as a great training venue. Initially, fencers had to belong to another club to train at the Fencing Institute. The vision then was to have a facility with FIE pistes and other equipment so that fencers had a pathway to fence up to the highest international level if they so wished.

The building is owned by the CCC and leased on a yearly rolling over basis. The lease, power and insurance costs amount to around \$18,000 per year. After the earthquakes in 2011, Akido were invited to move into a portion of the building as they had lost the use of two of their facilities. The construction of the temporary AMI Stadium next door to the Fencing Institute meant that V Base, an events management company, began to lease the Fencing Institute on the days and nights when there were rugby games or other events taking place as there were no facilities for them within the stadium. These two organisations have been the main contributors of the Fencing Institute since the earthquakes. Over the last 12 months the lease costs have been met by Akido approximately \$7,000, VBase \$7,000 and Fencing Mid South around \$3,000 from hire for competitions.

The re-incorporation of the Fencing Institute means that the trustees of the old entity will be passing on the assets to the new Fencing Institute. The assets are worth about \$20,000 and there is cash on hand of around \$5,000.

Steve felt that the establishment group, the initial office holders, need to get the new Fencing Institute to a position of financial self-sustainability. He believes the Council will be committed to funding a new venue in the future if the Fencing Institute was required to move for any reason. He thought that the new entity should replicate the past intent of the Fencing Institute in that it should be a venue for serious fencers wanting to fence at national and international level, but that it also should be a club for new and recreational fencers.

Motion to incorporate the club. Proposed by Gareth Foley; Seconded by Steve Clarke; Carried unanimously.

Rules

Richard Johnstone spoke to the Constitution document containing the rules of the new Fencing Institute that he had drafted. He noted that the document had been circulated for comments and changes.

The document circulated before the meeting was dated May. The document that Richard was speaking to was the most up to date version (dated June). There were three copies of the June version and it was that document that was voted on and signed.

Richard said that the rules were designed to be supportive of the club. The new club needed a structure and money to pay for its upkeep. The establishment office holders were 2 Club Captains – male and female. Their role was to chair meetings, represent the club and enhance club morale. The Administrator position was to run the club handle the requirements of the Incorporated Societies legislation. The Treasurer was to not only do the book keeping but also to find funding sources. The Armourer role was to look after the gear and facility and be the Health and Safety Officer for the club. This establishment committee would also appoint advisors as due course as outlined in the constitution. Future elections of committee members had been staggered so that a totally new committee was not elected at election time. At the first election in a year's time the Club Captain male and the Administrator would be up for re-election.

Richard said that although there was a committee, everyone needed to pitch in to ensure the smooth running of the club.

Discussion on the constitution and its rules centred mainly around disputes and conduct. The distinction between unsatisfactory conduct and misconduct was explained. Misconduct is the more serious event and may include such things as violence, fraud or doping. It was further clarified that anything at this level would also involve FIE and their processes.

Motion to approve the rules. Proposed by Gareth Foley; Seconded by Liam James; Carried unanimously.

Office Holders

The following positions and people were put forward as the initial office holders:

- a. Club Captain – Female: Rachel Clarke
- b. Club Captain – Male: Hamish Clarke
- c. Administrator: Karen Johnston
- d. Treasurer: Chris Aynsley
- e. Armourer: Hugh Reynolds

Motion to approve the positions and office holders. Proposed by Gareth Foley; Seconded by Conor Foley-Walker; Carried with one abstention.

Other Discussion

Hugh Reynolds said that the club needed to develop what it has got and wanted ideas from members. Everyone will be involved.

Sheldon Ogilvie said that the ideas should feed into a plan and asked when that would be done. The response was that the process would start relatively soon, possibly September bearing in mind that several office holders would be going to Newcastle to the Commonwealth Junior competition. A suggestion for a survey was made to gather people's input.

Chris Aynsley said that a stocktake of physical assets would need to be done and Leasa Ogilvie said that Mid-South already had a good inventory of what was Mid-South property and what was the Fencing Institute.

When information goes out to members ideas should be canvassed on such things as the fees structure.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.