The Open University Club

Minutes of the forty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday, 20 July 2017 at 12.30 p.m. in the Hub Theatre

Present: Natalie Mott (Chair), Brandon Cook (Treasurer/Sports Chair), Louise Thomas (Entertainments Chair), Tracey Bean Williams (Committee Member) 27 Affiliated Club members and 10 Non Club members. Regions/video conference – R08 via video link

In Attendance: Alan Burrell (Head of Operations, Estates), Julie Hope (Business Services Manager) and Susan Scimè (Club Co-ordinator)

Apologies: Natalie Eggleston, Peter Dazley, Sara Flemons, Angie Jones

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Noted: The Chair welcomed colleagues present at Walton Hall and acknowledged Region/Nation colleagues via videolink.

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 Confirmed: That the minutes of the forty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday, 7th July 2016.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Noted: NM confirmed we met with the VC recently. This had a positive outcome and he is happy to promote Clubs.

4.0 CHAIR’S REPORT

4.1 Noted: NM confirmed it had been a busy year and that the Club wishes to engage with all staff including homeworkers.

4.2 Noted: Revision of strategic objectives reinforcing how we want to take the Club forward.

4.3 Noted: There have been amendments to the constitution – all Clubs need to ensure all members are aware of the Prevent Policy and they need to include this in their constitution and ensure all members are made aware.

4.4 Noted: NM thanked Louise for her work as Ents Chair and working so hard to get the new OUTrips Club up and running.

4.5 Noted: New handbook includes Risk Assessments and Health & Safety. NM thanked all Clubs for completing their Risk Assessments and for following processes and procedures.

4.6 Noted: Budget to be rubber stamped by Council.

4.7 Noted: Room bookings – University business does have to take priority and portering will be required. The Club are and will continue to work with Estates team, Julie Hope, Susan Scime, Alan Burrell and the Finance Team.
5.0    TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1 Noted: Recent bids from Region 11 and OUT Club were sizeable bids. Underspend of about £4K due to unavoidable delays sorting these two bids out.

5.2 Noted: £82K spend on Ents, money came in was higher. We do not make a profit on trips, the issue is due to the timing of financial year end. We have been advised by the University’s VAT Manager we could be seen as a Travel Agent.

6.0    SPORT'S REPORT

6.1 Noted: Congratulations to the Squash Club who have won the Bedfordshire League Trophy this year.

6.2 Noted: Table Tennis won Division Two.

6.3 Noted: TAG Rugby won their Division.

6.4 Noted: Boot Camp going from strength to strength with lots of new members.

6.5 Noted: Six a Side cricket finished a week late – won for 3rd year in a row by STEM Faculty. Over 160 took part this year and it.

7.0    ENTERTAINMENT'S REPORT

7.1 Noted: Louise Thomas is stepping down and gave a special thank you to Susan Scime and Julie Hope. Natalie thanked Louise for her hard work.

7.2 Noted: Thank you to Ents Committee and for all those attending trips.

7.3 Noted: Due to the lack of subsidies available some trips needed to be cancelled so apologies for those who were disappointed they could not go on their trips. But we continue to have 5 star feedback on the trips that do take place.

7.4 Noted: Over 430 staff/family and friends attended trips.

7.5 Noted: 2 sold out trips. – Italian in October and Krakow – organised by the OU Club.

7.6 Noted: Cinema discounts still under club – saving £16,500 for over 1000 staff who have registered.

8.0    AFFILIATED CLUBS REPORT

8.1 Noted: Belly Dancing Club – offering taster sessions, go along and have fun.

8.2 Noted: Choir and Orchestra have been popular and well attended.

8.3 Noted: Dance Group have run Hula Hoop and Yoga workshops.

8.4. Noted: Gardening Club has had speakers this year and had several trips

8.5. Noted: Open Theatre Group 40th Anniversary production which was very popular this year.
8.6. Noted: Do let us know if you need help publicising your events.
8.7 Noted: Thank you to everyone who responded. It was the best report/most filled in we’ve had for a long time.

9.0 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL REPORT

9.1 Noted: Successful trips and events include Theatre trips, Halloween Parties, Edinburgh Fringe and Coffee Mornings. It is good to see they are able to run successful events and activities in the Regions and Nations.

10.0 ALAN BURRELL – DIRECTOR OF ESTATES

10.1 Noted: Thank you to all the Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm both here at Walton Hall and in the regions.
10.2 Noted: Clubs continue to thrive and thank you for your hard work.
10.3 Noted: Budget had been cut for 2016/17 but there are no planned cuts for 2017/18.
10.4 Noted: Difficult times – adaptive working and redesign.
10.5 Noted: Thank you to Louise for 9 years of Ents.
10.6 Noted: Thank you to Natalie for excellent year of Chairmanship.

11.0 ELECTIONS

11.1 Reported: That at the closing date, nominations for Officers and Committee Members, to serve on the Club Committee for the year 1st August 2016 to 31st July 2017 had been received as follows, and that all those nominated were elected unopposed:

- CLUB CHAIR: Natalie Mott
- TREASURER: VACANT
- SECRETARY: Angie Jones
- ENTERTAINMENTS CHAIR: Debbie Cruz
- SPORTS CHAIR: VACANT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Julie Clothier
- Sara Flemons
- Tracey Bean Williams
- Louise Thomas
- Peter Dazley

12.0 RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

12.1 Noted: Anyone interested in becoming the Club’s Treasurer or a Committee member can contact either NM or SS.

13.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
13.1 Noted: OU Club Fayre – 19th October 2017

13.2 Noted: The Vice Chancellor of the OU was approached to be the Honorary President of the OU Club

QUESTIONS

Brandon clarified income is more than expenditure.

Robin Wells from OU Choir – we are concerned of business usage – autumn concert part of MK50. Natalie confirmed we are trying our best to make sure important events like these go ahead and will highlight with Events this is a priority not to be moved. NM asked if RW could drop her an email with details so the Club could follow this up.

Liz Moody Chair of Golf Society – Is there a means of communicating with people to know they exist? Extremely hard to contact all students and staff as we can’t send emails. Central IT have to look after the webpage. NM replied they will do their best to help recruit where we can. Contacting students is something we need to take forward. Very few Clubs are not open to students. Looking at Social Media. LT to help.

Susan Scime
OU Club Co-ordinator
July 2017