

**The Ups Club & pH Bar
Annual General Meeting 2013
Minutes**

Date of meeting: June 27th 2013

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Downs Hall

Attendees: See signature sheet in records

Nathan Brown introduced himself as current Chairman.

Minute taker: Penny Flohr

1. Apologies were received from Sue Martin, Emma Sawyer & Amin Mirza.

2. Minutes of AGM 2012; accepted.

3. Matters arising from AGM 2012 – none.

4. Chairperson's report & Future of The Club; Nathan Brown

It's been a very good year for the Club. We have raised revenues in order to undertake some refurbishments of the facilities. The water cooler has now been installed and the metered hall lighting which were out-of-action for some time, are now working.

We've held a number of fundraising activities. These have raised in excess of £2,000. The Club has also hosted various social events.

Social Events

- Christmas Fayre – 30th November & 14th December
- pHbar Spring Party – 12th April
- Smithers' Tea Party – 2nd May
- Mini-O Finals Night – 19th July
- 50th Anniversary Summer Ball – 16th August

Thanks to Volunteers

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members of the club who volunteer their time to run activities, events and manage the interests of the club: the committee, fundraising committee, pH bar volunteers, all of the sports sections and all of our members. The Club would not be here after 50 years without this commitment and interest from our community at the ICR and RMH in maintaining what I view as our village square.

Refurbishment Plans

- **Decking with benches: recently weather-treated**
 - Installed and getting much use during the day and evenings
 - Many thanks to Lorna for donating the pot plants for the decking
- **Bar Area: ceiling, lighting, painting, new floor, new windows and fire exit**
 - Planned for completion by 50th Anniversary Ball
 - Possibility of new bar furniture and replacement of bar
- **Changing Rooms: refurbishment and installation of shower cubicles**
 - Planned for next year
- **Foyer: re-painting and re-flooring**
 - Planned for next year

It is important to keep the momentum of the Club going. We will be trying to re-band ourselves and design new logos for the Club and pH bar. These will be revealed at the Summer Ball in August.

5. Treasurer's report; Zoe Walters

In 2012 we established a dedicated Fundraising committee, who went on to host several successful events including the Smither's Tea Party, cake sale and Christmas Shopping event, all of which raised money for the decking, which has been in place for a year and has helped to contribute to the use of the club. Sales of plaques that are displayed in the pH bar have also helped with fundraising efforts. This year we will mark the 50th anniversary of the Ups Club with a Summer Ball, which will take place in the hall and bar of the club.

The hall has regular bookings, from both internal employees of the ICR and RMH, as well as from outside parties, which helps to promote the club internally and externally.

Other than the decking, there have been no major expenses to the club and as such we have maintained a healthy savings account. In light of this the committee has made a decision to spend some of the savings on much needed refurbishments on both the changing rooms and the bar area of the club. A substantial, but reasonable amount of money will be spent on these renovations, which will help to further encourage use of the club and hall.

Regular repairs to the pool and other necessary areas of the club have taken place throughout the year. Various clubs have requested equipment and additions to the hall and these have been granted wherever possible.

I would also like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to the Club. A copy of the accounts is available to view.

6. pH bar report; Nathan Brown on behalf of Amin Mirza

The pH bar continues to host and support functions and events for staff and students of the Royal Marsden Hospital and the Institute of Cancer Research throughout 2012/13. Turnover of stock has declined since we lost 'the green' and the weather hasn't been particularly good too. Nevertheless our profit margin has improved slightly.

The pH bar has hosted a number of events: the Post Doc / SOA Olympics Party, the Spring Party, the Squash Club AGM, the Ups Club Open Day, the Ups Club AGM, the Mini Olympics Finals Night, the Cancer Therapeutics Division Day, September Fest Beer Festival, the Halloween Party, Students' Fresher's Week, the 3rd Year Student Talks social, the ICR Xmas Party and many other birthday parties, PhD viva celebrations, leaving-arriving drinks, and team/departments socials.

In addition the pH bar has also been extensively used by the Diving club, the Squash club, Post Docs' and Scientific Officers' Societies, and the Students' Association.

We look forward to the pH bar refurbishments and hope that this will increase custom. In these challenging times the pH bar and its volunteers are working harder to maintain and attract members to use its facilities and to keep it open. Both the pH bar management committee and Ups Club committee would like to thank volunteers for all the hard work in ensuring these facilities are available to the staff and students.

A copy of the accounts is available to view.

7. Special Members' report – Squash (Steve Edwards)

The squash Club is fine. We don't generate much income. Our members are both ICR and Royal Marsden staff. We'd like to increase membership and intend to flyer the Royal Marsden.

Special Members' report – Pool (Nathan Brown)

The pool has been both too hot and too cold at times during the year. This issue should have been resolved. A member suggested a white board could be used to post notices of pool temperature and other issues. We are currently doing a survey of the pool. There were a few occasions where the pool water level was very high (almost overflowing). The Royal Marsden Works department generally check the pool and its temperature on a daily basis.

Mike Walton suggested the diving club help with pool cleaning and maintenance as it is in their best interest to preserve the pool.

8. Future of The Club; see Chairpersons report.

9. Election of auditors

It was proposed that the same auditors are retained – Wellden Turnbull LLP.

10. Committee

There was a call for a social secretary and communications member to join the committee.

11. Any other business

None

Meeting closed at 5.55pm.