

YOUNG MEMBER FORUM MEETING
12th February in the Art Studio at 7pm

In attendance: Marc Newey, Simon Baker, Joy Stevens, Dani Huleatt, Katy Preston, Harriet Canby, Dan Lott, Nikki Clark, Tom Groom, Stuart Reeks, Vitalii Sanduliac, Justin Colver and Helen Bolt.

Apologies: Carolyn Ward, Emma Powell, Debora Drago, Pete Crocombe, Cameron Fraser, Dominic Vincent, Olivia Huxtable, Ricky Pharo and Oliver Milton.

1. Welcome

Introductions were made to the new Forum members and others around the table.

2. Minutes and matters arising – 01/10/24

MN talked through the action points from the last meeting.

- Mocktails for opening in May. **VS to organise**
- Outdoor screen to show Wimbledon and movies.
- Darts event to be planned. **NC to organise**
- No shows for classes – registers and starting to charge for Reformer no shows in action. Getting strict on lateness also. **SR has actioned.**

3. Health Club

Stuart gave an update from the Health Club and information on the new Outdoor Gym which will be about the size of two shipping containers. He advised the group that it will be open all year around with a new programme of activities, including Sophia's lifting classes.

There has been a request for more classes for young mums with young babies, similar to the Parent and Yoga classes.

Requests made for fitness classes to start at or after 7pm in the evening to allow post-workday attendance.

4. Food and Beverage / Social Events

Update given by Vitalii.

MN asked the group's opinion on F&B and food etc, what it was like overall, and everyone said they were very happy with the food and service.

NC asked for ideas for the Social Scene activities to encourage younger Members to come along and make the most of the new spaces.

It was agreed that the 'career' sessions had not got off to a flying start.

MN advised that it would be revisited but that they needed to wait for the renovated spaces and look at career focus.

NC thought it was a really hard sell.

MN explained that it was difficult to get commitment from the age group (YMF) who make last-minute decisions. He would like to drive it through with the younger Members and will continue to try to get the career-driven sessions off the ground. Need to open up the career's areas to Medical, Start-ups and possibly legal areas etc.

MN asked for more of a steer and asked if the group would be interested in a Dragon's Den type of event, or events with Athletes or industry people.

DL suggested someone with more of a broader appeal, i.e. an entrepreneur that could be relevant to a range of areas.

It was noted that the younger Members enjoy the Pimms / Cocktails and Croquet events. Sport-driven social events work well and socialising through sport.

Other suggestions made:

- Pub Quiz to meet other young Members who could then message each other to meet for a game of sport.
- Perhaps a young Members' quiz on a Wednesday night.
- Sports events with drinks afterwards.

JS asked if there were any thoughts about the Annual Levy?

KP mentioned about most of her friends spend it quickly. DH felt it was quite high proportionally if you are on one of the lower subscriptions, maybe it should be worked out proportionally according to subscriptions by age? MN said the average annual F&B spend per Member is £360ph hence the Board felt £300 was reasonable. To be raised and discussed at the next Marketing and Membership Committee Meeting.

Action FEB25/01: Levy worked out proportionally according to age to be put on the next MMCM agenda.

HB

There was a discussion around the data and leftover Annual Levy and what the average spend was, benchmarked with other Clubs.

MN stated that Food and Beverage was subsidised by £700k per year.

JS asked at what age the Young Member Forum would accept kids in the 'new bar' areas?

KP would rather it be a kid free, but JC didn't mind if well-behaved older kids were dining with parents. SB suggested zones, so kids could be allowed in certain areas.

DL commented that if kids were allowed in then young Members won't want to use it while they are there and suggested that the Club Café is for families and the bar for adults, then everyone knows where they are welcome.

JS asked if 16+ with parents is fine?

MN thought kids who were 14+ dining in the bar with parents would be fine and the Club Café would be open for families as well.

VS commented that we need to be mindful of the golfers who will want it to be an Adult only Bar as currently. SB suggested time restrictions, certain times for families, adults, set up the Club Café like the Bistro for the evenings.

SB also suggested a mother and baby coffee and cake session (meeting/connection/socialising).

JS suggested a free trial at the Creche, with coffee awards so there is something for new Members.

MN thanked the group for their patience with the project and would go back to House Committee via JS with their useful thoughts.

Action FEB25/02: JS to go back to House Committee with feedback received from the YMF regarding the Bar.

JS

5. Sports

Racquets

Dan updated the group on Club Champs to include barbecue, possible exhibition match and tennis programme.

There will be a new Live Ball session on Sundays 4.30pm – 6pm, currently booked up but he will be adding more sessions.

KP asked if the Club Champs entry fee would stay the same.

DL advised that the fee is set to encourage Members to turn up to play because if it is free or lower cost, they simply don't turn up. Price for the knockouts would be £10 per pair. Prices will be reviewed. It was noted that the ticket for food and band was separate.

DL informed the forum that the 18 – 35 sessions were good throughout the winter and that can be revisited.

DL discussed the Wednesday Night Club Night that is scheduled after half term where you turn up at the ITC 6 – 8pm, with a 7 – 7.30pm start.

The Forum thought maybe this should change to 6 – 9pm, with sessions: 6 – 7.30pm and 7.30 – 9pm.

JS asked about it being on either a Monday or Friday when perhaps young Members would be working from home on those days. It was noted that Members probably would not come to the Friday night session and Monday evening would be the best option.

DL will look at a Monday Live ball Session, from 7.30pm – 8.30pm and then people can play a set afterwards.

Current Pickleball sessions will remain when LL leaves but looking to add more sessions, maybe offsite.

There are three or four options for Padel / Pickleball, with plans being drawn up by the Padel/ Pickle Working Group, will come back to the membership once the plans have been drawn up.

JC thought this will be a great opportunity for people to socialise, as Padel and Pickleball are very sociable sports, with a good range of people and ages.

DL was asked what adult group coaching sessions were available.

DL explained that organised sessions or groups who get together, pay a coach. The fee is on how many in the session and which coach you have.

Golf and Games

The Forum discussed having a darts event.

Action FEB25/03: A darts event to be organised and look at buying a Flight Club for Members.

SB

SB suggested a 6 – 9-hole golf event, away days, trips abroad and group golf coaching.

Busy tee sheet so will need to get sign up if they do any of the above events.

Indoor Golf Centre

MN advised that currently the IGC is being designed as a two-tier centre. They are just working through F&B provision in there, who the IGC is for, how much it will cost to staff it. It will be open to all Members, but we need to work out how much it will cost per Member. Non golfers will probably need to pay to access / use it. Golfers may also have to pay for it because it is additional to their fees and current activities. Surveys have been done on what people are prepared to pay. Members using the IGC need to contribute, will need to give Members the choice. Might be surprised by those who will not use it because they need to pay for it.

MN advised that it has just gone to tender, and the annual operating costs will be reviewed when we know it is going ahead. The Forum discussed the possibility of opening up the IGC for Members to do corporate events, will need to look at peak and off-peak times.

MN wants to give members and their families first options and to bring guests etc.

KP didn't realise that non-members could have lessons here.

It was noted that in the past RH had offered lessons more than the Club would like but there are just a few people now and they pay a premium. They pay the lesson cost plus a guest fee which comes to the Club.

Action FEB25/04: SB to check how many non-members are having golf lessons with the Pros.

SB

Action FEB25/05: JC asked for a light on the practice nets by the trolley sheds.

SB

Action FEB25/06: HB to ensure that JC is resubscribed to emails and that all events and activities are put up on the Member's Instagram.

HB

6. Ideas for 125 anniversary celebration

MN stated that the Board felt that the Gala Dinner format needed to be rethought. It wanted the event to break even based on a reduced price per head.

JS said that the board were waiting to hear back from Arjun and Viv on some alternative costs. The idea would be to break even on the Gala Dinner (around £100 per ticket). The focus would be more on staging more section events over the two month period.

KP said as a young Member she probably wouldn't spend £200 on a ticket for the Gala Dinner and others agreed.

JS advised that the Board felt the ticket price might exclude some people.

MN advised that they are now looking at a range of events and a range of prices that will attract the widest range of people. If there isn't the cost of housing an event for 500 plus people it is a much more manageable cost.

JS asked if they had a multi sports event like Craig did last year, would that work for this group? All agreed.

7. AOB

KP asked for an update on the phone booths for the Reading Room.

It was noted that there are designs for the bandstand to have two booths in there and one in the Reading Room. The one in the Reading Room would be situated next to the current glassed-walled area.

Action: FEB25/07: Need to pick up on this now, that the architect is back.

SB

JS asked how long the membership waiting list was, which was discussed and an update given by HB.

8. Date of next meeting – 6th May 2025