



***Sports and social group for
Vision impaired people***

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 29th January 2004 at Wavertree
House**

Present – Chris Dutton, Jonathan Dutton, Mick Etheridge (chair), Alison Evans, Paul Gillett (minutes), Iris Keppler, Christine Laurence, Valerie Mainstone, Katy Russell, Ruby Woolvern.

Apologies for Absence – Terry Brady, Andy Cross, Diane Marks

1. **Introductions** – Mick welcomed everyone to the first City Synergy annual general meeting

2. Minutes of the inaugural meeting were read, agreed and signed as a true record

3. **Reports**

3.1 **Chair's report** – Mick's report was read to the meeting. The report explained the background for the development of City Synergy, highlighted some of the activities that had taken place during 2003 and presented hopes for 2004. He thanked everyone who had been involved in City Synergy during the

year noting the work of the Steering group and sighted volunteers and expressing appreciation to Katy for her support

Mick encouraged members to come up with ideas for activities that might be included in the programme

3.2 Treasurer's report – Christine's report was read to the meeting, the report indicated a surplus for the year of £867 with a further £2,000 carried forward due to funding received from the Scarman Trust and Blatchington Court Trust being given mid year to cover a full years activities.

As well as amounts of £2,500 from the Scarman Trust and £1,000 received from Blatchington Court Trust, City Synergy raised £530 from a sponsored Tenpin bowling event and £125 was received in subscriptions.

Expenditure for the year was £1,763 which was mostly used for hiring the hall for Goalball and subsidising activities

It was proposed by Christine seconded by Mick that membership fees stay at £5 for 2004, this was agreed by the meeting

A budget was presented with the accounts, it was noted that this would be used as guidance by the committee and was likely to require adaptation as the year unfolds

Christine expressed thanks to Jonathan and Paul for their assistance in preparing and auditing the accounts, Valerie thanked Christine for her work as treasurer

Paul mentioned that a bid had been made to Blatchington Court Trust for £5,000 as part of their prize competition for 2004. This bid is mainly for Goalball and includes an element for developing other sporting activities for Vision impaired people under 31.

4. **Election of Officers and other committee members**

Katy Russell took the chair for this item

The following persons who had served on the steering group for the last year were proposed, seconded and agreed by the meeting.

Role	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Officers			
Chair	Mick Etheridge	Chris	Paul
Treasurer	Christine Laurence	Paul	Mick
Secretary	Paul Gillett	Christine	Paul
Other Committee members			
	Chris Dutton	Paul	Mick
	Diane Marks	Christine	Valerie

There were no other nominations

5. **Activities** - Mick invited comments from the meeting on the activities provided during the last year and any suggestions for the future. There was widespread agreement that the activities had been enjoyable and appreciation for those involved in organising them. A suggestion regarding swimming would be followed up by the committee

Details of planned activities including Goalball, Walks and a salsa event were advised to the meeting

Katy also advised regarding a British Blind Sport open day including Archery at St Dunstons on Sunday 16th May

6. **Constitution**

Paul explained that the purpose of the constitution was to set out the objectives of City Synergy and to define the rules by which our meetings and other activities would be governed. A constitution is also vital when seeking funding

It was noted that once agreed a constitution could be amended at a subsequent AGM or if necessary a special general meeting. This might be necessary if circumstances change such as through the implementation of new laws or significant growth in numbers attending.

A proposal that the constitution be accepted was made by Paul, seconded by Mick and agreed by the meeting

A sub group would be set up by the committee to develop policies for volunteers, equal opportunities, grievances and discipline etc

7. Any other Business

Membership forms for 2004 were now available, members were requested to complete and return to Christine with their subscriptions (where appropriate)

The meeting heard about arrangements for volunteers checks, Leisure Link had agreed to arrange these on our behalf

A suggestion that the AGM be moved to February or later in the hope that better weather might encourage a higher turnout was defeated on a majority vote.

Alison asked for a well done to be noted to all for a successful first year of City Synergy

8. Date of next meeting – Thursday 27th January 2005