

General Members Assembly - Minutes

October 13th 2022, 19:30

Participants

Carolina Spanner
Martin Karkossa (Marty)
Emily Demmer
Anne-lin Langbroek
Rick Roodbergen
Matthijs Prinsen (Prins)
Aleksandra Rodak (Ola)
Myrthe de Haan
Puck Wierda
Eline Steenstra
Santiago Gomez (Santi)
Thomas van Drie
Oscar Paananen

Present by Proxy

Maike van der Laan proxies Myrthe de Haan
Sofie Stam proxies Myrthe de Haan
Casper Wijtsma proxies Santiago Gomez
Jorrit Grob proxies Oscar Paananen
Mads Madsen proxies Santiago Gomez
Charlotte Sievers proxies Aleksandra Rodak
Robin de Graaf proxies Aleksandra Rodak
Annalena Schröder proxies Rick Roodbergen
Elmar Klein -> proxies Rick Roodbergen

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1 Opening

Meeting opened by Carolina Spanner at 20:40

2 Announcements

No announcements.

3 Approve Agenda

Agenda approved without changes.

4 Approve Minutes ALV 13th of October 2022

Minutes approved without changes.

5 Half-year Financial Report

Presentation of the Financial Report by Anne-Lin. Bastiaan van Olst was unable to attend himself. See the financial report and explanation. Only questions and answers are listed here.

Thomas Has the board received information about rent and energy changes?

Carolina Yes we have, it was just announced a few days ago and is not in this report.

Anne-Lin That's why the balance with accounts has changed since then, also the member count was wrong for the calculation.

Thomas What changed?

Anne-Lin Number of members was 72, I think we changed that?

Thomas I meant what changed with the club house rent.

Anne-Lin We are getting money back from the RUG, we paid too much for electricity.

...

Presentation of document "Financial Situation" by Anne-Lin.

...

Rick The 1900 to the NLB which is an incredible amount of money, that is unpaid? And the 2400, that is paid?

Anne-Lin Yes to both.

Rick If we pay everything we owe and get all the money we should get, are we at a loss at the moment?

Anne-Lin Right now we have about 2000 in our bank account, if we pay the NLB we lose most of that, then there are still bar tabs open, and we are also getting money back from the RUG, but yeah we are still at a loss then.

Rick Are we at a minus?

Anne-Lin No, not at a minus.

Rick I was confused because it said 2021/2022 in there?

Anne-Lin Basti forgot to change the numbers. It should be 2022/2023.

A letter from Mark Boer from the Financial Committee is read

...

Marty I think the Lustrum Reservation might be confusing to people. Every year, we set some money aside for the Lustrum, so that in a Lustrum year, we can use that money. This year is a Lustrum year. We've been saving that money but we shouldn't spend all of it on the Lustrum since it would be irresponsible.

Carolina This is why the LustrumCie doesn't have 1500 euros to spend this year, but only 500, and they are encouraged to cut costs as much as possible.

Prins In the last 4 years, have we been saving that money?

Carolina No, not all of them.

Prins So are the 1500 realized or planned?

Carolina They were planned originally. We could spend the 1500, but it would be irresponsible. So we now are doing 500 euros but kept 1000 for ourselves.

...

Rick I have not been here for a previous lustrum, and I think less than a dozen people here have, but do we then make a profit on the lustrum, or will it be a break-even event mostly?

Anne-Lin We're trying to break money, but we're not making any money with the Lustrum.

...

Oscar I killed a mosquito

Assembly cheers.

...

Financial Report approved.

6 Half-year Secretarial Report

Presentation of the Secretarial Report by Marty. Committee sections are presented by representatives of the committees.

21:19 Prins presents AcCie

Prins Elmar is also in the AcCie.

...

Marty I think I forgot to put the text from the ClinicCie in the document. My apologies.

...

Emily There is no IntroCie, I am handling the intro period myself currently.

...

Prins [to Emily] Do we still have a raffle?

Emily It will be in May.

Annelin for lustrumcie

Marty [To Anne-Lin about about the LustrumCie] My eyes are not blue.

Anne-Lin We know.

Myrthe [Te Emily about Women's Trainer Committee] You mentioned Lotte [Charlotte Sievers] being in the committee, since when?

Emily Since last week.

Eline for youth cie

Prins We have no sponsors, why have we not appointed a sponsor committee?

Carolina The other committees were already hard enough to fill. So we can ask people but we are already looking for people for the Advisory Council and the Gladool Board and got no responses. Right now we are focussing on the committees that need attention, rather than making new ones.

Marty [To Prins] Are you volunteering?

Prins Somebody made a rule that we can't be in two committees right?

Carolina No, it's allowed.

...

Myrthe Is Pleun still on the board?

Carolina Officially yes.

Prins Anything unofficial about that?

Carolina No.

...

Rick [To Marty about Men's Trainers Committee, specifically reffing] I will get my referee licence at the last moment. The current policy of picking randomly is very fair and the best way to go about it. We should write that down for later use, in the transition document.

Oscar Just a reminder that is officially the task of the VPMens to choose the ref. Every single member is supposed to get a ref license. If you have not gotten one, it's not a case of "I'm going to get it when I have to", you are officially fucking up if you don't have it, even if you don't plan on reffing. Oscar over.

...

Santi Maybe one day we can all sit together at somebodys house and do the rules together.

Carolina Some of the girls did that and it went well.

...

Secretarial report approved.

7 Beer Break

8 Change in Advisory Council (RvA)

Prins I have always wondered, why don't we put the applications for the advisory council in the general chat? It seems that now it is always friends of the board or people near to the board that are considered and only after that they are opened to the members? Why are we not opening that up?

Oscar If an actual member is needed it is usually communicated?

Prins In this case yes, we need a member from outside the club, but not always. Last GMA this was only communicated to people close to the board. Anne-Lin was an additional member, Nynke was the outside member, being replaced by Luna, but last GMA there was new members added to the Advisory Council? It's a kind of vriendjespolitiek. Why not a standard procedure to ask all the members?

Carolina So the reason we picked Anne-Lin, is because we needed a female member. From the experienced girls, there was Puck, Annalena, Anna, Ola and Anne-Lin who were not in the board but also experienced. Annalena was already the Trusted Contact so it was too much to ask her. Anne-Lin had an added value to the council. When it turned out that Anne-Lin was joining the board and we had to remove her from the Advisory Council, we asked the other ladies if they wanted to fill her position, but none of them responded.

...

Prins Are we in accordance with the bylaws, if we remove two people and only add one?

Carolina Yes. The only thing we are missing is a member of the women's team.

Marty I just wanted to add that the Advisory Council has no real "power". They play a purely advisory role, and none of their advice is binding to the board. So seeing as the whole construction is intended for the board to have people they want to ask for advice, a whole procedure might be over the top. So there is nothing to gain from "vriendjespolitiek".

Nynke Bergsma was discharged from the advisory council.

Anne-Lin Langbroek was discharged from the advisory council.

Luna Muijs was installed to the advisory council.

9 Articles of Association (AoA/Statuten)

Rick What kind of things do we want to change? It is not clear at the moment.

Carolina We don't have any examples, but it is with the goal of becoming compliant with WBTR laws.

Change of Articles of Association in order to become WBTR-compliant approved.

10 Change in Bylaws (HR) - Increase of Yearly Contribution

10.1 Change in Bylaws

Rick Was there not something about contribution in here? Since we are talking about that later.

Marty Those two are separate things. The issue is that we raised the contribution to 75 a few years ago, but never updated that in the HR. So this is a fix for that.

Rick So it's now 75, but if the next vote changes the contribution, what happens to this?

Marty Then we update this accordingly.

Changes in Bylaws approved.

10.2 Increase of Contribution

Carolina The yellow parts of this document are corrections that have been made since the document was sent out.

...

Ola What is the margin for being on the high or low side of contribution? How far below or above other clubs are we?

Carolina Well we are now at 75 euros, some clubs are asking for 250 euros a year, like Utrecht.

Ola Follow-up; Other than Lacrosse, what associations did we reach out to?

Carolina Other ACLO associations, Basti did this. I can't tell you which ones unfortunately.

...

Myrthe I thought you said in previous years and with the new clubhous, it makes sense that the contribution is raised, but it's now a very steep increase, almost doubling. There are already very few people showing up to events, and it seems that this will discourage people from staying with the club?

Carolina Fair question, to be honest, this is something that we should have done a long time ago. We need this to be financially healthy. I do get it, it is a lot to ask in one shot. We added the monthly payment option to make the initial burden easier.

Myrthe Do we need to do this so swiftly? Or can we afford to go slower and raise it year-by-year?

Carolina No I'm afraid we really need this now. This decision was not taken lightly, we did a lot of research, contacting other clubs. Boer from the KasCie also thinks this is the moment to go forward with this.

Marty I think you said in your original question that we are encouraging people to leave the club? This is exactly what we're trying to solve with the monthly payments. You know how gyms ask you to sign up and tell you it's only 25 euros a month? This is just like that, instead of hitting members with a 150 fee right out of the gates, they just pay 15 euros monthly. It's a psychological thing, if gyms are doing it, why shouldn't we?

Oscar As a point of full support, the membership cost has been the same for as long as I've been a member, just taking into account inflation we should be raising, and now we are only catching up. Im not speaking for anybody else than myself.

Marty Correction, we changed it in 2018/2019, the year you joined, so the contribution was lower for a few months after you joined, so the one you actually paid in the end was indeed the same as the years after.

Prins Dizkartes, which I am a member of, is 65 a year which is less than we pay as a sports association. Just wanted to mention that.

Rick I have trouble with the amount, especially with the rental idea. While they are separate things, we have to care about new people. With NLB contribution this is about 200 euros per year, close to American Football numbers including rental of gear which is higher quality, and more. It's a lot of money, I don't see how we are on the low side, maybe if our main competition being hockey clubs? GCHC is 120 per year. I would love to see an idea that makes it 10 per month or a stepwise approach to increase it slowly? One of our selling points at the KEI week is our low contribution which we now lose.

Marty I don't understand the idea of a stepwise approach. If we say that our contribution should be a certain value, and it is not that, why should we go stepwise? If our contribution right now was 10 euros, we wouldn't go 50, 75, 100, no we would go straight to 100. Just because it used to be lower doesn't mean it has to continue to be low. But I do see your point, it is a big increase. But I do want to add that 100 euros, is basically only accounting for inflation in the last years, and then we aren't even counting the whole club house that is included and that we have to pay for.

Carolina The boat is already sinking, this is a saving grace to stop sinking. Comparing ourselves to hockey makes nonsense, they have hundreds of members so they have smaller costs per member.

Rick Comparison to other cities also does not make sense, especially because we need to take the ACLO card into account as well, which is 60 euros. That is why I would rather compare to other sports associations in Groningen. We still beat many of them. How about 125 or 100 per year? 150 I have trouble with.

Carolina You keep comparing us to hockey, and other clubs like Delft also have similar fees like the ACLO. Theirs is more expensive than ours even, and people still pay them.

Ola I am in favor of this, we need to boost our income. That being said, on the way here, i was thinking of possibilities of making this temporary, if in 3 years we have a good amount of money we can lower it again. So now we could try it, see how it goes with membership and the board could always revisit it later. Just wanted to say that.

Prins Um, just to be sure, we are doing no more than 100% increase? I have been a member for over 4 years, when I see a membership increase from 75 to 150, and if also the ACLO increases their membership costs, for me at that point it becomes a question if I'm gonna be here next year. I don't like that. I like the club, I like the people, I would love to help with the committees. But spending 150 on top of helping, on top of ACLO fees, on top of NLB fees, it's too much. This increase is not feasible for me personally, when I hear this I want to say very clearly: "No, I do not want that." I want to be part of this club, I want to help out, I do not want to spend that much money, next to helping. When we couldn't access our funds, I waited more than half a year to get money back that I spent for the Accie. This hurt my trust in the club, when I see the current financial situation and the turn we're taking, I don't like it.

Carolina That was your opinion, not a question.

Prins How are you thinking that changing our current 75 euro membership to 150 is gonna change the people in our club to do more and spend more?

Carolina So the impact this has on people being active within the club?

Prins Yes, when I see 75 euros more for the club alone on top of sanctions, plus ACLO and more, how does that make me want to stay with the club? People aren't even staying for half a year, how will we get them to stay for multiple?

Oscar The way I see it, we aren't doing this to somehow receive a better or more polished club, we're doing this because we're about to go into the minus, after years of being real loose with money. And this move is to keep our head above water. We took a gamble on the club house, and everybody who was a member then was made aware that this clubhouse would not come cheap and that we would have to put in a lot of work and sacrifice some things. Now it's come to a point where we actually need to do this to survive.

Prins As a board, do you think that by raising the contribution, we are going to get more money, even though some members are not happy with it.

Carolina Of course. That's why Boer and Basti have taken the time to look at this. We were hoping that we would get more members, that has not happened. Past boards have set goals for more members but it has not worked. This increase gives us a breather to find better solutions. If we are not making the money with beer or otherwise, the club contribution is our last desperate option.

Marty If it were up to us the contribution would be 0 euros obviously. But to put things in perspective, people are coming here and they are paying 2000 euros to study. They are paying 500 euros rent. I think if 15 euros a month keeps you from playing lacrosse, I don't think you would have joined in the first place. I don't know about you but I definitely spend more than 15 euros at this bar every month. Also we are very open to any suggestions for how to fix our financial situation without raising contribution.

Rick Well the answer would be sponsorships. Of course unfortunately that didn't happen.

Carolina Sponsors are not our way out. If we ask for sponsorships, we need to offer something in return. We are not in a position to offer much. We are a small group of people, mostly students, but that doesn't mean students always have money. What they can offer us is often discounts, for example we get a discount from DressMe.

Marty The biggest sponsorship we ever got was 400 euros, which is just above two contributions with this new proposal.

Carolina Also many sponsors are recovering from corona as well. They are not our golden ticket out.

Prins I would like to ask, knowing that you guys have made some sort of prediction for how many people we are gonna have next september, with that prediction in mind, do you think we will have more sponsors than now? How many people do you think we will have next end of september/october and how many euros do you think that is gonna make in sponsorships?

Carolina I'll start with the second one, we cannot predict right now. Even de Parabools sponsors are dropping out. Right now the companies are not looking to sponsor clubs. So we can not say for sure there will be sponsor money next year. We need to research into what is going on with other clubs. Those things will have to be taken into consideration before we can give you an answer. For the first part, the basisbeurs is coming back. Maybe more people are studying then so maybe we will have more members. Maybe soon the ACLO will also have to accept MBO students, this could also help.

Proposal not accepted.

Marty What changes would make you accept this proposal?

Thomas I agree that we should increase it, but perhaps not double it. 120 per year.

Prins Saying per month does not change anything for me, it only changes that you have to do calculations.

Marty You are not the first to say so and it will be possible to pay it all in one go.

Prins If both are applicable, that could be confusing. I can absolutely imagine myself confused as a KEI member.

Puck How is it confusing? That's how all subscriptions work.

Prins I'm bad at math. I will be flabbergasted but it wont work for me personally. I am clearly in the minority but if I hear that you have these two options, for me that does not work. I think going times two is too much. A reasonable amount is: Not 100%. From 75 to 150 is absolutely the max.

Rick I think 100, 135

Myrthe I think 10 or 11 per month is good. Especially as a member that just joined and had no say in the votes around the club house.

Ola Is the next GMA gonna be the one in fall or will there be another one?

Marty We could do a BALV [Special GMA]

Rick I would advise to do this before the next year starts.

11 Equipment Rental Policy

Ola Goalie gear tends to be more expensive, is it included in protective gear?

Carolina Good question.

Ola When I rented a kit of goalie gear, I did a deposit of 20 euro more than mens gear. So maybe it could be slightly more expensive. Although that could also discourage goalies.

Myrthe I train to play goalie but I don't want to rent it since I don't play a lot.

Carolina You are helping out the team so it's different.

Marty Goalies are hard to come by anyway so they are all helping out the team in that sense. My personal suggestion would be to just keep goalie gear excluded from this policy entirely.

Carolina We could continue the former policy only for goalies.

Myrthe What are the prices based on?

Carolina The price we buy it for, the normal risk of it breaking, and we also asked other clubs what they do.

Myrthe 1 month or 12?

Carolina Depends on when you give it back. As soon as you hand it in, you stop paying.

Prins Do you think it's realistic that members will pay on top of membership fees that they will pay for equipment per month?

Carolina Of course. When you go ice skating, you pay to rent skates. So maybe it was never an idea to look into it for past boards

Marty Also it's not exactly fair that some people can rent gear for free forever, while other people buy their own gear and get nothing in return.

Santi I agree with the price. Maybe we can do a stick kit, something that is hard to find is stringkit. Maybe we should stock these so people can buy them throughout the year, could be useful and a great source of income.

Marty Like we should have stringing kits in stock? Good idea.

Rick I find this very expensive. In American Football we paid 40 euros per kit per year. I find this much cheaper. Is there a possibility to make it yearly and for less money?

Oscar Unrelated, I am making a request to keep this on track. It is too late to present them now, if you want to point this stuff out send it beforehand. I make a request for the president to use that hammer.

12 Beer Break

13 Gameday

In the interest of time, this point was deferred for the BALV.

14 Change of Treasurer

Bastiaan van Olst was discharged as treasurer.

Anne-Lin Langbroek was installed as treasurer.

15 AOB

16 Question Round

Myrthe For the new treasurer, I did not get an announcement last time money was taken off my account.

Anne-Lin That will change. That will change.

Rick The treasurer change happened quite fast. Is there a reason for not communicating it in the announcement group?

Carolina It was communicated, it is tradition that new board members are announced at drinks rather than in the group.

17 Closing

Assembly closed at 23:48