

# Wharf Chambers Co-operative Club

## Annual General Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Club Collective Members Present: Pat, Ellie, Dan

Co-op Members Present: Rob, Felix, Claire, Lotte, Raino, Cassie

Members: 15 general membership present

1	An introduction to the meeting was given by Pat (Secretary and licensee).	
1.1	<p><b>Pat explained the structure of the club:</b></p> <p>It is a function of our license that we operate a members club, meaning anyone that uses the space becomes a member of the space. To put on an event you must also be a member meaning the programming of the space comes directly from its members. Being a members club also allows people to have more influence in how Wharf Chambers is run by responding to requests for feedback and input and attending meetings or working on projects with Co-op and Club Collective members.</p> <p>The membership elects some people to the club collective at the annual general meeting every year, these members then work with the co-op to ensure the space stays safe, legal and viable and to improve the space.</p> <p>The co-operative are a group of people who are employed in a co-operative structure to run the space, they manage the day to day running of the space, implement improvements to the space and manage the lease and license. They work closely with the club collective.</p>	
2	<p><b>Claire and Dan offered a round up of the year:</b></p> <p>Regular club nights had been established by members which were a success both in terms of ensuring a regular income and getting new members signed up</p> <p>Regular festivals have also been a success and brought new members into the space</p> <p>Wharf Chambers annual events like New Years Eve and Eurovision has been really successful</p> <p>Youth Anthems continued to be a successful and this was great to get young people into the space</p> <p>The space is also used by various organisations and groups as a meeting space.</p>	
2.1	<p><b>Improvements to the space had been made including:</b></p> <p>Removal of old heater and Installation of new heating system</p> <p>Comfortable seating installed</p> <p>Beer cellar dug out</p> <p>Sink installed in disabled toilet</p> <p>Frosting installed in front toilet windows</p> <p>Improvements to the PA</p> <p>New signage to front and bar</p>	
2.2	<p><b>Member Involvement:</b></p> <p>Discussions at the last AGM about bookings had resulted in changes to bookings procedures and the establishment of a promoters collective group on facebook to encourage the sharing of knowledge / resources between DIY scenes.</p> <p>A survey and discussion about whiteness in DIY spaces had resulted in an action plan being drawn up about what Wharf Chambers could do to be more welcoming to People of Colour.</p> <p>There is a new website nearly active with blog function which will help us to communicate more with members.</p>	

	<p>Over the year we had 374 responses to surveys. We had 4 full members meetings and the club collective meet the co-op monthly.</p>	
3	<p><b>Finance Report</b> Rob gave us a rundown of the financial situation. Rob told us that the accounts were a public document and could be accessed by anyone who wanted to view them. The headline is that Wharf Chambers is now sustainable after 4 years. The club is now able to pay a living wage at £8 per hour of the co-op members. The club has an annual turnover of around £230,000, with a £2000 reserve. The club will break even this year. Corporation Tax account has been settled. We are now in the normal VAT bracket and this means we've had to improve sales recordings so electronic tills have been introduced. We had a VAT inspection and passed with no recommendations. We are getting to the point where we have a sustainable business model and are able to offer regular, fairly paid employment to co-op staff. Newly installed windows have meant an increase in club nights and late openings and meant more income. Beer cellar will allow for more and cheaper beer to be sold.</p>	
3.1	<p><b>Questions from the club</b> Do we have any emergency money? £2000 buffer in the account, will look to increase this as we can. The club is still in receipt of some interest free loans from co-operative members.  Do we have insurance? Yes we have a broad insurance policy.</p>	
4	<p><b>Electing Officers to Club Collective</b>  The following people stepped down:  Chair: Ellie Rogers Co-Chair: Dan Skevington Secretary: Pat McCusker Co-Secretary: Ali Kay Club Collective Member: Gwen Diagram  The following people were voted in:  Chair: Dan Skevington Co-Chair: Ellie Rogers Secretary: Pat McCusker Co-Secretary: Georgia Greenfield Treasurer: Anne Marie Stewart Club Collective Member: Harvey Coleman  <b>Thanks to club members for their continuing support and to the co-op for their hard work over the last year.</b></p>	