



36th Annual General Meeting of Javaea Computer Club
17 February 2022
Held at Avenida de Paris 2, first call 10am, second call 10.30am

Members present 54, plus 34 members by appointed representative

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

37 members sent apologies

2. Agreement of Minutes of 35th AGM on 15 February 2020 (There having been no AGM in 2021 due to the pandemic.)

Agreed: Unanimously

Proposer Elaine Warehouse

Seconder Soren Christofferson

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes - None

4. President's Address and Membership Report

The President recapped the turbulent times of the past few years: flood, homelessness and Covid pestilence. Covid striking in early 2020 had a significant effect on the activities of the Club. For 18 months it was only possible to offer online help and Zoom sessions. Although activities have resumed, many members are still cautious about being amongst groups indoors.

Looking ahead there is an uncertain future leading the Committee to conclude that Club administration needs to be streamlined, as there are fewer volunteers, and that finances need a radical review due to fewer members.

Despite this, the Committee continues to work hard to provide the services that have been so appreciated over the years and which have helped members learn more about their devices and technology, but most particularly in problem solving.

Membership Report

Total members now 302, down from 430 at the end of 2019. Main causes Brexit and the pandemic. It is proposed that a campaign be launched to raise the Club's profile. If any member has knowledge and/or experience of this type of work we would be delighted to welcome them to join a small subgroup of the Committee, which will be tasked to execute this.

5. Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Comments

Geoff Hurst, Treasurer until recently, unfortunately could not attend so the President handled this section. Everything for 2021 has been completed with the Auditor complimenting JCC on the good state of its accounts. Grateful thanks go to Geoff Hurst for all his hard work in keeping things straight during a difficult time.

The usual comparison with the previous year would not be helpful, given the fact that we had not been able to operate from March 2020. However, in summary, excess spending over income taken from the reserve fund was €3,945 in 2020 and €5,929 in 2021.

The reserve fund has been purposefully allowed to decline since 2014, by waiving membership fees for longstanding members (10 years).

The Extract of the Accounts handed to members today shows expenditure in detail so that members can see where their money goes.

Accounts approved: Unanimously **Proposer** David Lawrence
Seconder Philip Bowick

6. Election of Committee Members.

All those on the Nomination List attached.

Elected: Unanimously

7. Election of Auditor

Our previous Auditor Rebecca Millington is not longer able to assist us with this. The President suggested we use our lawyer's company Impley who do this sort of work.

Agreed: Unanimously

8. Resolutions

Committee Review of Fees

The Committee Proposal had been published to all members prior to the meeting and is attached to these minutes. The floor was open to members to raise questions, comment, etc.

The ensuing discussion raised many valid points which the Committee had already considered but discounted as not aligning with the key principles of fairness and simplicity.

A main concern was that 12€ to 35€ seemed like a big jump, even though 35€ includes attendance. It was universally agreed however that 35€ was a reasonable price to pay for JCC membership. Also, that there is sufficient in the reserve fund to cover any shortfall of income caused by loss of members due to the change.

They accepted the Committee's commitment to a publicity drive to raise the Club's profile and hopefully attract new members.

Passed: Unanimously

9. Any Other Relevant Business

Members were reminded of the Club's project for recycling old computers, laptops, tablets, and smartphones to support the charity Make-a-Smile, which helps disadvantaged children in a Care Home in Benissa. Suitable reconditioned devices are donated directly to Make-a-Smile.

Members may also make a cash donation for any recycled items; money collected goes to Todos Juntos Javea who support the Autismo Asociacion School as well as needy families.

The Meeting closed at 11.30am

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Current situation

The last few years have affected every aspect of our lives, including our club.

We had to close the club because of the lockdown in March 2020 and it soon became clear that we would be subject to restrictions for some time. Because we were unable to meet, we decided to suspend the collection of annual fees from that time and of course the income from attendance fees stopped as well.

It was only on Monday 24 May 2021 that we were able to resume meetings, limited by the health regulations and to some extent by the willingness of members in the current situation. Partly to minimise the risks associated with handing cash, we decided not to collect attendance fees when we reopened. The annual membership fee was charged from September 2021.

Clearly this situation has affected our finances. Over recent years there has been a steady decline in membership income whilst our relatively high administrative costs such as the “rent” have remained substantially fixed.

With no income during the past 22 months, we have experienced a decrease of 9.692,67€ in our reserves.

Assuming that we will return to a new normality in 2022, we need to address the funding of the club to prevent the erosion of our reserves.

Our fixed costs are:-

Rent	6,840€
Bar	3,744€
Insurance	160,27€
Website	365,39€
Microsoft Office	99,00€
Total	11.208,66€

Whilst we will keep these costs under review, the committee feels that these facilities are essential for the club to operate as we want it.

Proposal

Our income comes entirely from our members. The committee has given a lot of consideration to the membership fees and are agreed that, in addition to ensuring that we cover our fixed costs, above, the fee structure should be

1. more equitable, and
2. easier to administer

Fairness

By the end of 2022, a total of 143 members will have “free” annual membership because of the 15-year rule approved by the AGM in 2015 subsequently revised to 10 years in 2016. However, the total membership has declined since 2020 from 430 to 298 and with the addition of further members becoming entitled during 2022 the result would be 50% of our members not contributing

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an annual fee to the funds. We propose to cancel this arrangement so that all members pay the annual fee.

Attendance fees

Although our historic practice of charging an attendance fee might seem to be a way of accruing revenue, on closer inspection there is little, if any, benefit from this practice.

Attendances are down from an average of roughly 63 per week in 2019 to 43 per week in 2021. There is no real prospect of improvement, whilst Covid is around combined with membership numbers decreasing.

This element of our income is completely out of our control and we cannot rely on it to form the major source of income. To cover the 'lost' income from fewer attendances we would have to put the daily fee up by a significant amount.

We can see that our annual liabilities of around 12,000€ across 300 members means that **the annual cost** of providing club facilities to each member is about **40€ p.a.**

Considering the previous fee structure in terms of fairness:

In the extreme case, a member who only attends once in the year pays **13.50€ p.a.** = (12€ + 1.50€) for a facility that has to be made available 3 times a week, 52 weeks per year, just in case they want to attend.

However, the regular members, helpers and committee have to pay much more than this for the privilege of running the club. For example

2 times per week = $(2 * 52 * 1.50€) + 12€ = 168€$

3 times per week = $(3 * 52 * 1.50€) + 12€ = 246€$

Note that some of the committee etc are exempt from the 12€.

Not only is the use of attendance fees inequitable, but they also cause administrative complexity at the entrance desk and for the Treasurer.

We propose to simplify our administration greatly by removing the attendance fee. This would:

- Eliminate the need to find volunteers to sit exclusively at the desk for nearly three hours to collect cash. It is virtually impossible to find anyone to do this job.
- Eliminate the tasks for the cash desk person that do not contribute to our aims as a club – e.g. ensuring everyone pays, dealing with “haven't got the correct money”, “can I just pop in for a minute” etc.
- Eliminate the extra administrative work of collecting and accounting for coins and notes and having to take these to the bank every week at a time when they do not charge.
- Minimise the physical handling of cash which is undesirable especially in the current pandemic

Our proposal is to

Set an annual membership fee of 35€ for all members in 2022

Note that

1. There will be no joining fee in view of the higher annual fee.

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2. Only Honorary members will be exempt from the annual fee, currently there are 4.
3. The renewal date for all members will be changed to 1st March

Going Forward

If members are prepared to agree this proposal, we expect that not all current members will renew so we will have a shortfall of income.

Our reserve fund is still in a healthy position so we can weather another year of depletion and review the situation at the end of the year.

We will launch a publicity campaign to attract new members.

We will look very carefully at how we can reduce our fixed costs and take action to achieve that.

Implementation

What we would like to do is implement the new fees structure from 1 March 2022 and ask all members to pay the required fee. This will mean the renewal date for all members will become March each year.

If we don't charge now, we will have no income until September 2022 which is currently the next renewal date.

Asking members to pay the new fee now reflects the fact that we have not been charging attendance fees since we opened in May 2021 covering 36 weeks up to the AGM.

Conclusion

Active members will be better off, other members will be paying more but ensuring we keep the Club open for a year without depleting our reserves too much and so that we are available for when they do want to attend.