

**DOWN TO EARTH SOCIETY
REGULAR GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 13th. July 1995**

FACILITATOR: Maddie Hanane
MINUTES: Cassandra Clark

Both elected unopposed

APOLOGIES:

Graham Ennis, Barbara Jaeger, Robyn Mcleod.

The meeting sends their best wishes and good health to Graham who is in hospital.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Warwick Sayer moved that the minutes of the previous R.G.M. be set aside at the moment.

Seconded by Michael Barden.

Matti and Graham have sent rule changes to relevant department.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Les Spencer sending a letter to U.N. mentioning D.T.E. involvement in Cairns festival.

FINANCE:

Business cheque account = \$27,723.83

Cash management account = \$152,042,61

Problems re. our spending at ConFest and loss of tickets from the front gate ConFest 94/95 were discussed. George reported his feelings on ConFest spending ; report attached on page 3 . Further discussion re. accounts should they be published etc.

NOMINATION OF INTERIM TREASURER:

Kaye Warne accepted position of treasurer till A.G.M.

Discussion about our procedures.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

Amendment to rule 26.3d passed unamiously.

Rule 32.3 - no consensus. Moved that the motion be now put. Moved Lance Nash, seconded Jane Bower.

For = 5, against = 12, abstained = nil, motion lost.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON SUSPECTED FINANCIAL MALPRACTICES:

Several weeks ago I made a public statement to the effect that I would not hesitate to call in the Police Fraud Squad if my suspicion of malpractice with the finances used for the site works would be substantiated.

As a director I had no other choice considering that at the time the site finances were not substantiated with proper receipts and the total sum was far exceeding the minimum limits far necessary for police action.

Several years ago I found myself in a similar position when a member stole \$7000 = which got resolved only because I actually did call in the police.

With regard to the site finances of the Easter ConFest 1995, I can now categorically state:

“That I, George Schmidt, did check all the recorded site expenses AND I HAVE FOUND ALL MONIES ACCOUNTED FOR AND COVERED BY RECEIPTS ISSUED IN A PROPER FASHION.”

P.T.O.

I must add however, that although NO financial malpractice did take place, that I do not agree with the amount spent which I consider to be severely in excess of what sensibly should have been used.

However, in excess or not, at least all expenses were accounted for in a proper manner.

With regard to improper site finances, I am still awaiting a proper accounting of the expenses used for site works of the Tocumwal 1,2 and 3 ConFests. Several thousands of dollars were claimed to have been used, but which accounts have **never** yet been covered by proper receipts.

Considering the time limits we will therefore never know whether those amounts were indeed used for the benefit of D.T.E. or otherwise- never mind whether they were in excess or not.

With regard to the finances of the Gate at the Easter '95 ConFest:

A witness, Robert Harper, did categorically state that he did see the numbers of 80 tickets actually being the Gate tent.

NOTE: *Robert wishes to be disassociated from this statement - at meeting 20/7/95*

Neither the tickets nor the butts plus corresponding monies were handed in to the Treasurer and of that fact I am a personal witness.

This means that the whole of FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS is un-accounted for.

I am in no position to ascertain whether:

a) those tickets were never sold because the originals were never returned

or

b) whether those tickets were sold - AND IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO SELL 40 TICKETS IN PEAK TIME DURING A CONFEST !!!! - and **the butts of those tickets complete with the monies just "disappeared"** with volunteers working at the Gate.

I sincerely hope the that point a) applicable, but none of us will never know for sure and the suspicion therefore that four thousand dollars were actually stolen still stands.

Signed 10th. July 1995

George Schmidt,, a Director of D.T.E.

Moved that this meeting be adjourned until 20th. July, 7.30 p.m. at C.E.R.E.S.

Moved David Cruise, seconded John Gibbins Meeting closed 10.10 p.m.