Mr V. Hubner

78 Valley Road

MT MAUNGANUI 3116

30 October 2015

Mr D. Williams

President

Mt Maunganui Returned Services Association

544 Maunganui Road

MT MAUNGANUI 3116

Dear Sir,

**RE: FUTURE MEMBER’S RESTAURANT & DANCE FLOOR**

Alternative Option

1. I have enclosed some drawings that show a possible alternative to placing the future member’s restaurant on the existing dance floor.
2. The drawings propose that the existing carpeted area in the West Wing becomes the future member’s restaurant. The food is delivered to that area via an under floor passage going under the Foxhole Café and the existing stage. A new bar would also be established to serve the future member’s restaurant. Members would also have a new entrance through what is now the fire exit in the West Wing. The dance floor and stage remain in their existing form.

Concerns

1. There seems to be some confusion as to whether or not a second members and guests restaurant is on the Executive agenda. At the dance member’s meeting 17 July the General Manager indicated that there was a second restaurant and it goes on the dance floor. At the EGM 6 September the agenda had no mention of it and emphasised that the Foxhole Café was the only thing to be discussed. Apparently at the AGM 20 September the second restaurant issue was raised from the floor.
2. This letter assumes that there will be a second members and guests restaurant at some time in the future. But it will only be discussed after a huge amount of work has been done over many years beforehand. It is understood there are discussions about moving the eastern wall outwards, shifting the snooker tables towards that new area and shifting the pool tables into the area vacated by the snookers tables. Perhaps the gambling machines may be on the move as well. Only then will the conversation come back to a second members and guests restaurant.
3. The large turnout by dance members on 17 July gives some indication of the concern felt by those members about losing a perfectly good dance floor. In the intervening years between now and discussing the second members and guests restaurant, it is assumed these members will make a point of becoming better informed and organised to resist losing the dance floor. Perhaps they will form a dance adjunct to rally around.
4. The Foxhole Café plans seem to show a ‘pinch point’ door between presumably the public restaurant and the member’s area. It is assumed that guests would sign themselves in at that door if they want to go into the member’s area. Food from the kitchen to the second members and guests restaurant on the ex-dance floor will probably have to go through that door also. Perhaps this congestion has not been thought through yet.

Drawings

1. The drawings concentrate mainly on the Western Wing and stage areas for detail, as getting the steps to function there is essential for the idea to work. The drawings become vague in the Foxhole Café, kitchen and main bar areas, as having the lift there gives scope to move things around.
2. The drawings are all A4 size. After the sheet number is a scale. In all plan and isometric views a scale rule can be used to measure distances. The drawings are as follows:
3. Sheet 1: Shows the plan of the member’s restaurant, passage and lift.
4. Sheet 2: Shows the same as in (a) but has the stage floor & passage roof removed to show underneath.
5. Sheet 3: Shows the same as in (b) but in isometric.
6. Sheet 4: Shows the same as in (c) but in the other isometric view.
7. Sheet 5: Shows the same as in (a) but in isometric.
8. Sheet 6: Shows a long section of the bar steps, cellar under the stage, passage way under the Foxhole Café and the lift in the kitchen.
9. Sheet 7: Shows detail of the cellar under the stage.
10. Sheet 8: Shows detail of the member’s restaurant food pick up and bar.
11. Sheet 9: Shows a layout of the existing club if a trial was undertaken to operate the dining area in the Western Wing rather than on the dance floor during the Foxhole Café construction.
12. Sheet 10: Shows a bit more technical outline of future proofing the passage under the Foxhole Café if it was done during the Foxhole Café construction.
13. Sheet 11: Shows a possible way of building the passage under the Foxhole Café many years away if future proofing was not done.

Explanation

1. The unusually high stage makes it possible to construct steps from a new bar down to a mid- floor under the stage. From there a ramp under the stage goes down until head height is reached to go along a passage under the Foxhole Café to a lift coming back up in the kitchen. Food on trolleys would follow this route in the opposite direction.
2. In establishing a cellar under the stage, the proposal called for putting as many facilities as possible down there to reduce staff walking distances and to free up areas elsewhere for other uses. Consequently Sheet 7 shows:
3. The wash bench transferred from the kitchen so the tub can be used to wash trays.
4. The dishwasher transferred from the kitchen so all dishes from both the Foxhole Café and the member’s restaurant can be washed in the cellar midway between the two restaurants.
5. A new glass washer is in the cellar for bar glasses so they don’t need to be carried around the dance floor to the main bar to be washed and then returned that way.
6. Beer kegs are in a cool store as close as possible to the new bar. Perhaps lines from those cellar kegs could also go to the main bar if it is desired to free up space behind that bar.
7. The box for bowling gear remains stowed under the stage. But is may need it’s wheels turned through 90 degrees to go in sideways, as there is a wall preventing it going long ways.
8. The steps are wider where staff need to stand for plate returns and food pick up. The counters at these points are not the same height as the steps serving them are at different heights. Only the new bar is at floor level.
9. Apertures have been made into the Gallipoli Room for the new bar, food pick up and plate returns. This may help reduce congestion when large numbers have a private function in this room.
10. The area outside the building leading to the members and guests exterior door [was fire exit] will need to be improved. A signing in desk will be needed.
11. The toilets on the North side would be used by both public and members. Preventing the public from entering the member’s area may be a problem in future. It is not addressed in this proposal.

Costing

1. The proposal is admittedly unorthodox and probably costly. When costing the proposal, subtracting the cost of a new dance floor in the Western Wing will be needed, in order to look at the whole costing picture. Or the two proposal’s costs need to be compared to each other.
2. Over the next few years, data should be collected on what effect the dance floor show is having on non-dancer restaurant and bar sales. There are quite a few dancers at the club who have learnt to dance at formal dance studios, and visitors stop to watch them. Visitors seldom look at free style dancing. If the formal dancers are at risk of being driven out of the club, the effect of no floor shows should be a known factor on revenue beforehand. The Mount Club may be a relevant example of where to look for history on this issue.

Priorities

1. The second restaurant discussion is many years away. But some things may need to be considered very soon. These are:
	1. Whether the passage way under the Foxhole Café needs to be future proofed during the Foxhole Café construction in order to save costs later. This is shown in Sheet 10. This future proofing calls for post/columns to be put in place to below the future passage floor level. A roof, forming the Foxhole Café floor, would be constructed at the same time. The commendable speed at which the Foxhole Café is proceeding makes this option probably redundant. Therefore the method shown in Sheet 11 may need to prevail later.
	2. A trial of a restaurant in the West Wing as an interim solution when the Foxhole Café area is closed for construction. This layout is shown in Sheet 9. This would show members how viable this concept is now, for recall in years to come.
	3. This letter and drawings be run past an architect for a second opinion on the concept.

Conclusion

1. It is requested that this letter and drawings be presented to the next Executive committee meeting and discussed.
2. It is requested that this letter and drawings be displayed for all members to view for four weeks. Perhaps this could be done once the Foxhole Café drawings have been taken down. The reason for this request is so that, as committees change people over the years, some members will still remember that there was an alternative to putting the second restaurant on the dance floor.
3. For your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Vail Hubner

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Copy to: Mr A. Buenter, General Manager, Mt Maunganui RSA