

## **KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB**

### **Notes of Annual General Meeting held on 31 January 2017**

**Present:** Graham Daniel (Chair), Howard Davies, Joe Patrick, Daphne Patrick, Patti Craven-Wilkinson, Tony Bowler, Tim Mather, John Cockram, Patrick Cartwright, Pauline Deal, John Deal, Carolyn Waite, Judith James, Sylvia Stokes, Liz Hale, Jill Ford, Glenda Horner, Salma Daniel

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Jean Bills, Judith Boulton, Roger Calderbank, Alicia Cash, Isabel Conner, Trevor Davies, Hugh Edwards, Tricia Ewing, Mike Fearon, Sylvia Fearon, Anya Frizell, Richard Gaunt, Jenny Gostlin, Mark Gostlin, Jennifer Kinloch, Garry Norman, Joan Roper, Chris Stokes, Michael Whittaker, Sue Wilson, Barbara Wrigley, Ann Yearsley, Terry Yearsley
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – Accepted; proposed by Daphne Patrick, seconded by John Cockram.
3. **Matters Arising** – None.
4. **Chairman's Report** – Attached.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Financial statement attached.
  - (i) Howard cautioned that expenditure would go up next year as we now have to pay a small additional P2P (pay to play) fee to the SCBA and also Daphne had been 'persuaded' to accept payment for the tea, coffee, biscuits and milk she had previously provided without recompense!
  - (ii) There's no current expectation of an increase in either annual subscription fees or table money, but this would need to be reviewed in the event of an increase in hall fees.

The treasurer's report was accepted; proposed by Joe Patrick, seconded by Carolyn Waite.

#### **6. Election of Officers & Committee Members –**

- (i) Joe explained that Graham was the only nominee for the position of Chairman and that, as he was willing to continue in this role, he should be elected to do so.
- (ii) Graham then explained that all of the current committee members were willing to stand for re-election, that no nominees had been put forward to replace them and that they were therefore re-elected, as follows:

Graham Daniel, Chairman – proposed by Jill Ford, seconded by Glenda Horner  
Daphne Patrick, President – proposed by John Cockram, seconded by Patrick Cartwright  
Howard Davies, Treasurer – proposed by Glenda Horner, seconded by Jill Ford  
Joe Patrick, Secretary – proposed by John Cockram, seconded by Patrick Cartwright  
Liz Hale – proposed by Trevor Davies, seconded by Isabel Conner  
Salma Daniel - proposed by Jill Ford, seconded by Glenda Horner  
Sylvia Stokes – proposed by Graham Daniel, seconded by Salma Daniel  
Tricia Ewing – proposed by Sue Wilson, seconded by Roger Calderbank

- (iii) Graham informed the meeting that Tony Bowler had come forward that evening to offer his assistance and that he expected the committee to co-opt him, as they could under the terms of our constitution.

## **7. Matters Raised by Members –**

- (i) Graham said that Joe had suggested a monthly handicap competition and that he thought that was an excellent idea. It would allow people to play with their normal partner, with scores adjusted by a handicap for which there was an established methodology. A small prize, such as the following week's table money, might be offered.
- (ii) Graham also said that someone had raised the question of a 'find a partner' facility and that he wondered if he should investigate how that option on our website could be used. Sylvia Stokes suggested it might be simpler just to have a nominated person to call but it was agreed to investigate the website option first.

## **8. Any Other Business –**

- (i) Pauline Deal suggested the club's ageing folding boards should be replaced by rigid ones. Howard explained that we knew they were past their 'sell-by date' but were waiting for more information on the equipment we might buy to ensure the boards we bought were compatible with it.
- (ii) Graham stated that the club's etiquette (house rules) document had been updated to reflect our new start time and that it would be loaded to the website in the next few days. He urged everyone to read it, particularly in respect of letting someone know if they were going to arrive late for an evening's play and making sure they were playing the right opponents, with the right boards and in the correct orientation each time they moved to a new table.
- (iii) Daphne proposed a round of thanks to both Graham and Howard for all the hard work they'd put in throughout the year.

## KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB – Chairman’s Report 2016

Good evening, thank you all for coming.

Our first full year since becoming affiliated to the EBU, adopting a formal constitution and electing our first committee has undoubtedly been a challenging one. I think however that we’ve made significant and positive progress; we might have stumbled once or twice (and I apologise unreservedly to anyone I might have unintentionally offended along the way) but we definitely went out of 2016 with a longer and stronger membership list and a higher average weekly attendance than we went into it with.

Our biggest challenge has been the wide range of playing skills and experience our members have and, from that, what they want from an evening’s bridge. At one end of the spectrum, we have players with many years’ experience who want to play as many hands as possible and, at the other, we have players who, irrespective of their skill level, want a social chat with their friends as part of enjoying their Tuesday evening’s bridge in Kingston Seymour. Both ends of that spectrum are totally valid and we’ve worked hard to accommodate them both.

We now play twenty-four boards nearly every week, we have a tea break and, very importantly for quite a few of our members, we’re cleared away, washed up and out of here by 10:30pm. We had six months of improvers’ evenings and, thanks to Daphne, now have a monthly ‘back to basics’ class for anyone trying to climb that never-ending playing skill ladder. I believe we have now managed to strike a reasonable balance; I get the impression everyone’s enjoying our bridge evenings – and rely on you to speak up if you’re not!

Some minor (but important) milestones along the way. We now have a website (although I suspect not too many of you look at it very often!), we have a bank account (so Howard has to endure less lumpy cash under his mattress!), we have an urn to speed up that important tea break and we have a computer-based lady reminding you that time’s slipping by – and that’s so much more acceptable than having me or Daphne getting up your noses.

We have a team doing well in the Somerset county league, we’re taking part again in the county’s Michael Coda charity event (that’s next week and, this year, your table money will be going to the RNLI), we’ve just had four of our members on a directors course organised by the county and we undoubtedly now have a strong presence with both the SCBA and the EBU; I think we punch above our weight and I can see benefits accruing from that – as you will hear.

So, now we’ve achieved all of that, what do I see for the next year? Firstly of course, consolidate all the good work we’ve done to date. Beyond that, there are two pieces of equipment which I believe will help us greatly, and which could be within our grasp.

The first is something called HandyDup, which connects to a computer to help us deal random hands without having to shuffle all the cards every week (something Howard does most weeks with me as his backup) and give us information we can then publish with the results on what cards each player had and what contracts were achievable. Some of you might have heard of Duplimate equipment which goes further and actually deals the hands in a fraction of the time; this is its baby brother and, whilst it takes longer to do the job, it comes in at a fraction of the cost.

The second is something called BridgeTab, which replaces the need to fill in travellers by putting a small tablet computer or smartphone on each table, linked to a laptop computer and automatically checking what's entered (immediately picking up all the mistakes Howard or I have to try to resolve each week) and computing the running scores as we play. Those of you who read the EBU magazine might have seen an article on this system in a recent issue. Daphne and Joe took part in the review session at Winscombe earlier last year and were both hugely impressed.

Both sound great, don't they? But they also sound rather expensive (and their combined cost would be over a £1000), so how could we possibly afford them? That's where that relationship we've been developing with the EBU comes in – and where the money we pay them could come back in spades.

In April last year, the EBU announced some grant funding for small clubs; we emailed our interest on the day that announcement was made ... and they somehow managed to lose our application! If I'm honest, we were a country mile short of being ready to take advantage of the opportunity last April but now we are ... and they feel a little obligated to us! I've been tipped the wink that there will be another round of funding available in the EBU's new financial year, I'll be watching their website like a hawk from mid-March onwards and getting our application in before they know what's hit them. They don't of course have bottomless pockets and we'll need to match their funding but, for the sort of expenditure we're talking about, that simply means they'll pay 50% if we can find the rest – and I really do believe that's achievable.

So overall, a tough but, in my opinion, ultimately successful year with every reason to feel positive going forward – and I must give thanks for their roles in achieving all of that to my colleagues on the committee. If you're not sure who they are, Liz, Tricia, Sylvia and Salma all played their parts but particular recognition must be given to Daphne for those excellent classes she continues to run, to Daphne and Joe for, more often than not, getting everything ready for the rest of us to enjoy each Tuesday evening and to Howard for, as well as counting our beans, doing the scoring and preparing the boards far more often than I do. My thanks go to them all and perhaps I could ask you to show yours in the usual way.

So, that's it from me and time to hand over to Howard for the Treasurer's report – but please don't mention my plans to spend all his money!

# KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2016

### INCOME

Membership Fees	£233.00	
Table Money	£2,015.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b><u>£2,248.00</u></b>

### EXPENDITURE

Hall Fees	£1,062.00	
EBU Affiliation	£35.00	
EBU P2P Fees	£300.74	
Bridgewebs Licence (2016 & 2017)	£80.00	
Scorebridge	£13.00	
Competition Entry	£14.00	
Course Fees and Booklets	£79.62	
Equipment & Stationery	£257.82	
Charity Donations	£65.00	
Xmas Event	£28.25	
Refreshments	£33.91	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b><u>£1,969.34</u></b>

**Surplus / (Deficit) for the year** **£278.66**

### Accumulated Funds

Balance as at 31.12.2015	£307.21	
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	£278.66	
Balance at 31.12.2016		<b><u>£585.87</u></b>

### Represented by :-

Bank Account	£528.80	
Cash in Hand	£57.07	
		<b><u><u>£585.87</u></u></b>