

**TENTERDEN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WED 13 FEB 2019**

1. Apologies

Jennifer Bishop, David Body, David Cooper, Bonnie Cruickshank, Sally Edwards, Guy and Cheryl Fraser-Sampson, Lucy Hall, Andrew and Moira Haslehurst, Jean Hutchinson, Stephen King, Peter Lehos, Mary Morgan, Jan Newcomb, Peter and Pat Nielsen, Anne Nicholas, Nigel Savage, Brenda Tolhurst.

Present: 32 members.

2. Minutes of the AGM for 2017

Approved. Proposer: Roy Moore, Seconder: Maurice Markson.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Report from the Committee

Received and unanimously approved.

5. Club Accounts

The meeting noted and approved the 2018 accounts. Proposer: Sue Rolles, Seconder: Julia Gayton.

Judith thanked David Cooper for implementing an improved accounts spreadsheet.

John Coleman enquired why the stationery bill was £500 more than last year; stationery costs were effectively on a two-yearly cycle; in 2018 playing cards and bidding box inserts had been replaced and it would probably not be necessary to incur this level of expenditure again in 2019. Members approved Judith's request that Mervyn Hayes be reappointed as the Independent Examiner. Proposer: Ann Thompson, Seconder: Julia Gayton.

6. Election of the Committee

The five members of the committee were willing to continue: Margaret Clement, David Cooper, Judith O'Connor, William Walker and Jim Wortley. Jeanna Grieves had been co-opted on to the committee during the year and her appointment to the committee had been proposed by Margaret Clement and seconded by Julia Gayton. All committee members were elected unanimously. There had been no offers by members to join the Committee.

7. To adopt a new Constitution for the Club

Those present noted and unanimously approved the new Constitution for the Tenterden Duplicate Bridge Club based on the EBU template, extended to cover our relationship with The Tenterden Club. Proposer: Roy Moore, Seconder: Eric Field.

A two-thirds majority of club members would now be needed to change the Constitution.

8. To authorise the committee to reconsider the adoption of computerised scoring

William Walker outlined the proposal that members present should authorise the committee to further consider the adoption of computerised scoring at the Club in the form of Bridgemates or similar. William emphasised that this did not include the introduction of duplimated boards on a regular basis at this point in time. Roy Moore enquired as to the likely cost; for a 15-table

Bridgemates set-up with a case, computer and printer, it would be around £2,500. As to storing the equipment, it was thought there would be room in the cupboard though some clearing out might need to be done, and a better lock acquired for the door. There would also be insurance implications; at present the Club does not carry its own insurance and it is unlikely that The Tenterden Club's insurance policy would cover us.

Roy Moore enquired who would operate the equipment; several members would have to learn how to set it up and manage it during the evening. Margaret Clement confirmed that offers to do that had already been made.

A discussion ensued about putting 'hands' into the Bridgemates at some stage during the evening, how this might work, and whether it was desirable to have a screen showing the results during the evening. Such a screen would incur additional expenditure and require safe storage. It was unlikely that the Tenterden Club would want it up on the wall permanently. Claude Wilkes asked what the difference was in having the most modern system as opposed to an older less-expensive version. William explained it had more functionality and could more easily be adapted to various uses.

Some members expressed concern that introducing such a scoring system might change the nature of the club.

The committee again reassured members that there was no intention to adopt pre-dealt hands on a regular basis but they could be used occasionally, for instance for competitions and of course SIM pairs. Jim suggested putting hands into Bridgemates at the beginning of the evening would be a good option. Sue Rolles was concerned that, as we are a successful club without them, numbers would go down.

Sue Rolles was thanked by Jim and the members for her sterling work as the main scorer for many years and also Terry Hornsby. Sue had no plans at present to give up scoring.

Tony Walker suggested that members present should have a vote on whether Bridgemates should be acquired for the Club, Roy Moore agreed. Eric Field said that members should entrust the committee to make the decision. There had been no offers from members to join the committee and help run the club. In his view members should empower the committee to further consider the issues involved and then make a decision on whether to proceed with the purchase of a computerised scoring system.

This motion was carried. Proposer: Roy Moore, Seconder: Eric Field.

In favour: 24. Against: 3. Abstentions: 5.

9. Any other Business

Terry Hornsby reminded members that we should be 'good tenants' and leave the room as tidy as possible; the cost of hiring the room had not increased for several years. In fact there had been a small increase in our rent late last year from £37.50 to £40 per session. However Terry's comment still applied.

Judith thanked Terry for coming early every week to help set up and staying late to tidy away.

Others also helped but she suggested more members might consider lending a hand.

Janet Rumsey requested that committee meeting minutes be made available to members; these could be put on the website.

Peter Lehos had commented that bidding box cards were not very clean; it was pointed out that 80 had new inserts but if any member comes across a bidding box whose cards need replacing, please put them aside at the end of the evening rather than just return them to the box.

Julia Gayton thanked the committee for all their hard work.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7pm.