



WAKEFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

Annual General Meeting
Monday 16 April 2018, at 7.15 pm



AFFILIATED CLUB

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from 78 members: John Armstrong, Sue Arnold, Sylvia Barns, Carol Blackall, Roger Blackall, Pat Bodle, Enid Braddock, Steve Brough, Keith Buckley, Cath Carr, Linda Cartwright, Steve Cartwright, Betty Charlesworth, Anne Charlton, Elizabeth Clarke, Barry Copley, June Crossland, Sheila Cutt, Bill Davies, Jenny Dibley, Janet Easter, Jennifer Ellis, Richard Ellis, Ann Fitt, Angela Fletcher, Richard Fletcher, Joyce Fowell, Robert Fowell, John Fowler, Sue Fowler, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Grew, Anne Haith, Anne Hawkins, David Hughes, Bryan Hutton, Liz Jackson, Paul Jackson, Carol Jennison, Alan Jones, Jan Kew, Thelma Leatham, Lawrence Kinlin, Rose Lee, Anne Little, Martin Loveridge, Liz Mackay, Rosemary Makings, Linchen Manley, Narendra Mathur, Elaine McAleese, Marie McGuran, John McHale, Marilyn Monaghan, Margaret Nicol, Carol Otley, Carole Parsonson, John Payling, Marilyn Poole, Deborah Poppleton, John Roberts, Malcolm Robinson, Sheelagh Rodgers, Pat Sellwood, Vivienne Sercombe, Alison Sharp, Carol Smith, Rosemary Smith, Sue Smith, Cynthia Speeden, Keith Spiers, Paul Topham, Stuart Trewartha, Stewart Tyson, Janet Walker, John Walker, Margaret Watson plus one illegible.

Forty-eight members were present: Christine Archbell, Beverley Barrows, John Barrows, Shirley Bastow, Elaine Blain, Alan Braddock, Val Carter, George Chambers, Christine Daley, Jenny Davies, Martin Fenton, Tom Graham, Bryan Grayson, Stephen Hanslip, Roger Holmes, Peter Jeans, Ian Johns, Dorothy Jordan, Tony Kent, Pat Lambert, Les Lammas, Brian Leggetter, Karen Lemm, Gerry Lumb, Prem Mackenzie, Rosemary Makings, Chris Maynard, Pat Maynard, John Milne, Tony Murray, Geoff Newman, John O'Sullivan, Pauline Parker, Roger Parker, Russ Parkinson, Malcolm Pollack, Janet Pratt, Margaret Sewell, Christine Stack, Sue Thick, Trevor Thick, Audrey Thompson, Dennis Thompson, Nigel Walker, Peter Wallace, Dave Westwell, David White and Dorothy White.

2. The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 10 April 2017

Peter Wallace proposed, and Margaret Sewell seconded, that the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 10 April 2017 be accepted as a true record. That was agreed unanimously.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer's Report - Beverley Barrows

Beverley felt that the accounts she presented were more-or-less self-evident, and showed the club to be in a very secure position financially. The surplus of about £2,870 over the year was a very healthy one; membership had again increased, and table money also, and although Monday and Thursday evenings were stable, Monday mornings and (especially) Tuesday evenings were flourishing.

The main increase in expenditure was in rent to WYSSC. Beverley had calculated that we were saving more than £500 per annum as compared with hiring as an outside group, and as members we had some influence in the running of the building. The saving next year might equate to about £1,000. Other items where expenditure had increased were trophies, charity donations, and miscellaneous (e.g. coat stands). There was a 'typo' in the accounts - reference to *YCBA Individual fees* should have read *teas*...

Beverley was grateful to Dave Westwell for his support as Monday evening table money collector, and to Chris Maynard for continuing to find savings in internet costs.

Russ Parkinson, who had opposed the increase in table money agreed in 2014, wondered why we needed to continue making such a substantial surplus; and why did Tuesday evening players pay a lower rate? Beverley replied that until the future of WYSSC, and our place within it, was assured we should continue to hold a sizeable reserve - just in case; and Tuesday evenings were shorter. Margaret Sewell seemed to speak for a number of members when she said that she was happy with the level of reserve. Peter Wallace pointed out that it was an increase in membership, not simply in table money, which had contributed to the situation. Russ suggested we might consider buying a second Duplimate machine - and that thought had already occurred to some committee members.

Geoff Newman thanked Beverley for all the work she put in over the year - and that was echoed by the members present. A copy of the financial statement is available from either the Treasurer or the Secretary.

5. Match Secretary's Report - Chris Maynard

'A very good year for Wakefield Bridge Club in the Yorkshire League with all four of our teams finishing 2nd in their Divisions and all are therefore promoted for next season. This is particularly pleasing for the C & D teams who were also promoted in the previous year.

The A team set off poorly by losing their first 2 matches but recovered well and won the next 5; the B team who were the least successful last season started with a draw and only lost 1 match in the season; the C team started well by winning their first 2 matches but lost the next 2, however they learned their lessons and won the last 3 to repeat last year's success of being promoted again; the D team having been promoted into Division 9 set off really well by winning their first 4 matches and then completed the season with only 1 loss.

44 people played in the League this year and I would like to thank them all and hope that they enjoyed it and will play again. I must once again thank the selection committee and the team captains for all their work during the season; it was nice this year to have some choice with that.

Now that we are playing more Teams events within the club and it is proving to be popular, I hope that this is one reason for the club's success. The D team will be playing in Division 8 (out of 10 currently) next year and we have had a suggestion that we could enter a 5th team to play in the bottom Division next season. Les Lammas has adopted this as his project and has collected enough names, mainly from Tuesday players, to make this possible and I hope that this will be supported by the committee when applications for the next season have to be submitted.

Finally, I have to thank my wife Pat and Beverley for organising the teas at the home matches; this is a time-consuming task and falls on the same people regularly, they have both intimated that they would like to give up, having done the job for a number of years, and the committee will have to consider alternatives.'

In the brief discussion which followed Ian Johns made a point of thanking those who made sure the Match sessions went well - he was one of those who just turned up and played, and he accepted that he (and others) could do more to help. Perhaps a rota could be organised... and Chris said he would put it to the team captains.

6. WYSSC Management Committee Report - Stephen Hanslip/Pat Lambert

Picking up from the situation described in last year's Minutes, Stephen reported that the long-overdue WYSSC AGM had finally been held in November 2017. It had been a very positive meeting, with the new constitution adopted, new trustees elected, and the WYSSC Secretary and Treasurer removed as trustees (so the small group leading WYSSC had opened up). The Chairman Mike Grist and new trustees had been urged to form a 'Management Committee' as soon as possible; invitations had gone out to the various groups in March (!), and Pat Lambert (with Laurie Earle as her deputy) had agreed to represent the Bridge Club.

Pat reported that in a meeting still lacking representation from some groups it had been agreed to try and maximise use of the club through attracting new members, and encouraging existing members to be more active; the lottery and draw would be reviewed; the membership fee might be reduced, and different categories of membership (junior/family) introduced; and the Rules would be reviewed. The committee - now the 'Representatives' Committee' - would choose a permanent Chairman once more groups were represented. Press coverage of the start of work on the new building would be arranged.

On the new building, Pat could only report that she had been assured that a start would be made in April - but she passed the site daily and so far nothing had happened. The solicitors were said to have the paperwork still, and WYSSC President Alan Poyser had promised that we would be in the new building by September 2019.

7. Secretary's Report - Stephen Hanslip

Stephen reported that membership had continued to grow, reaching a peak of 173 as the club year ended. We now have a reputation as a friendly club, with many recruits from neighbouring clubs telling us so, and he hoped that everybody would try to maintain that by greeting visitors and new members positively. The new membership form refers to Club Welcome Notes - a draft had been prepared and would be trialled with a couple of recent joiners; and the sense of 'two clubs' which he noted last year had diminished - he hoped members would keep on trying other sessions.

Stephen felt that too much work is still being done by too few people, and asked members to please consider volunteering - with catering at YCBA matches; with dealing cards; with scoring; with directing (where Peter Wallace is carrying quite a burden); with club hosting on Tuesdays; and not least by taking up a place on the committee, if only to keep a check on those long-term officers who might otherwise tend to do things 'their way'....

On training, Stephen noted the continuing efforts of Danny Parsonson, for which the club should be very grateful. Janet Easter, Pat Maynard and Steve Brough had all run sessions at various times during the year, and he was nearing the end of a (very demanding) EBU 'Learn Bridge in 24 hours' course.

On the new data protection requirements starting in May (the EBU's GDPR), he stressed the need to be open about how the club collects and uses members' data. Although not yet certain that we have everything right we will keep working on it, and update members from time to time. Pianola is at the heart of the club's administration, so we had reviewed who had access to the program - **a list of those involved is attached** to these minutes. The club website (Bridgewebs) had much less personal information but would be reviewed shortly. Stephen stated that as Secretary he holds a large amount of both written material (minutes of meetings; correspondence; lists of members, committee members, prize winners; membership forms, etc) and electronic material (duplicates of the written material, plus emails). The written material is stored in his home study, and the electronic material is password-protected.

The club would as a matter of policy keep to a minimum the data it held on members, and if any member was concerned about what data the club holds on them they could ask for - and would be given - full details. Finally, it was important to note that the GDPR was about data the club holds on members; members' phone numbers, email addresses, etc freely given to other members were not included in these regulations.

Alan Braddock pointed out how much the club depended on the work done by committee members, and expressed his gratitude to them all. The meeting responded with applause.

8. Presentation of Trophies

A separate list of competition winners had been compiled and circulated; the Secretary has copies. Only those trophies not presented earlier in the year were dealt with this evening.

9. Retiring President's Remarks - Geoff Newman

Geoff wanted his remarks to consist mainly of thanks.... to members, for their continued support, as it is they who make the club; to the committee, and especially to the Secretary, Treasurer and Match Secretary, who did so much work behind the scenes; to Beverley and Pat, for all their work on catering for Match teas and the Christmas parties; to the Directors, so ably marshalled by Peter; and to the scorers, who were often the last ones away at the end of an evening.

He had particular praise for the efforts of the club's four YCBA League teams - to have all four promoted in the same year was an outstanding achievement. Could they improve on that next year by all topping their divisions? It would be quite a challenge.....

Geoff concluded by offering best wishes to his successor in the post, and - again - thanking everybody for a very enjoyable year.

10. Incoming President's Remarks - Nigel Walker

Nigel thanked Geoff for his good wishes, and said that he would like to echo much of what Geoff had said. He felt that the success of the club could be traced to three things - the 'donkey work' put in by a few dedicated individuals; the friendly welcome that we offered to newcomers; and members' efforts to raise the standard of play - and he hoped that all three could continue over the coming year. Ian Johns said that he was not a teacher of beginners, but was happy to offer more improver sessions on the lines of those he had run earlier - for which Nigel thanked him.

11. Election of Officers (and Committee members)

The number of posts available exceeded the number of candidates for election, and the meeting was content to accept all the nominations. The new Committee is:

President	Nigel Walker	Committee Members	Steve Brough
Vice-President	Pat Lambert		Laurie Earle
WYSSC Rep			David Hughes
Treasurer	Beverley Barrows		John Jackson
Secretary	Stephen Hanslip		Geoff Newman
Match Secretary	Chris Maynard		Peter Wallace

12. Any Other Business

George Chambers thanked all the 'senior players' and committee members for their forbearance and guidance over the year - it was much appreciated. Peter Wallace asked for help in clearing up at the end of an evening....

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

Stephen Hanslip, Secretary
17 April 2018