

Briter Bridge Club 2

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 25th August 2015 at 6.30pm held at Parklangley Club.

Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies for absence

The meeting was attended by 37 members:

Tim Burrell – Chairman, Janet Bell – Secretary, Ann Close – Treasurer, Jan Titcombe – Webmaster, Steve Hulm - Membership Secretary, Howard Surfleet, Briony Weedman, Margaret Burrell, Ray Wootton, Maureen Mitchell, Susan Hughes, Diana Letchford, Margot Dashwood, Stuart Bell, Brian Close, Susan Lee, Sheila Weymouth, Andrea Hixson, Isobel Fraser, Keith Raymond, Caroline Ashcroft, Angela Hughes, Clive Davies, John Burke, Sheila Tutt, Sonja Poloczanska, Sheila Sturton, Kate Mitchell, Walter Million, Reidun Stockwell, Graham Stockwell, John Hayward, Luke Titcombe, Gill Ridges, Claire Marshall, Gill Wootton, Beryl Heath

Apologies were received from Derek Chadwick, Duncan Bell, Janis Fancett, Sheila Bradford, Ann Moran, Valerie Holder, Jalil Bhuia, Roy Adams, Peter Ergis

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were adopted as a true record. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the agenda of this meeting.

3. Proposed amendments to constitution

A revised draft was presented to the meeting. Paragraph 6, relating to Founder Members had been removed as it was no longer necessary.

Paragraph 8 (originally paragraph 9) Membership

This paragraph now includes a sentence relating to a more detailed Membership Policy, which the Committee is authorised to agree and publish.

Following a comment from a member, it was agreed that paragraph 8 should be amended, removing the reference to visitors as a category of membership.

‘Any changes to membership fees and table money will be recommended to the Annual General Meeting **or an Extraordinary General Meeting.**’

Paragraph 9 (original paragraph 10) Annual General Meeting

The revised first sentence now reads:

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Club shall be held each year within two months of the end of the financial year (31st July) ie by 30th September.

A new paragraph relating to email or proxy votes has been incorporated:

The standard position is that only members present in person may vote on resolutions at an AGM or EGM. This is so that all have the opportunity to hear the debate on the resolutions proposed. However, at their discretion, the Committee can allow proxy/email/written votes on specific resolutions. This power is anticipated to be used when the resolution is relatively straightforward and/or where a member has a powerful reason (such as long-term illness) for not being able to attend in person.

Paragraph 11 Winding Up

Following discussion, it was resolved that the following sentence should be removed:

In addition the number of votes cast must be at least half of the number of members of the Club.

The subsequent sentence should be amended:

However in the event of the Club becoming financially non-viable and the Members be unable to agree a remedial solution at an AGM or EGM, the Committee reserves the right to implement winding up arrangements.

The revised constitution was endorsed by the members present, subject to the additional amendments agreed at the meeting.

4. Chairman’s Report

Tim presented his report, thanking everyone for their support over the past year. He highlighted the acquisition of ‘bridge technology’ to enhance our enjoyment of the game. He expressed appreciation for all Jan’s support in establishing the use of the Bridgemates scoring system, which is generally working well. The dealing machine is also proving to be a worthwhile purchase; members were reminded to be gentle with the cards as bent or stained cards do not work with the machine.

The committee is no longer actively looking for an alternative venue and limiting membership, in order to control attendance to a comfortable level for the capacity of the room is likely to be the way forward. Nevertheless, any suggestions put forward by members will be considered.

Tim thanked his fellow committee members for their contributions and also to all those who have contributed to the smooth running of the club as duty officers, scorers, money collectors, refreshment providers and other helpers and to everyone who has come along to There were no questions on the Chairman's report.

5. Financial Report and Accounts

Ann presented her report and accounts (circulated with the agenda) and indicated that the club had a credit balance of £1200 at the year-end (31st July). She estimated that if we continue with current attendance levels, we are likely to accrue an additional balance of approximately £2800. Unless additional capital expenditure is envisaged, she proposed that club members should consider abolishing the annual £10 membership subscription, in conjunction with a reduction in the table money for members from £3 to £2.50.

A lively discussion ensued, but it became overwhelmingly clear that members would prefer to retain an annual membership subscription, while benefiting from lower table money. The meeting endorsed a proposal that the possibility of reducing the table money to £2, in conjunction with an annual subscription of up to £15, should be investigated and implemented if it proved feasible. The outcome will be communicated to members as soon as practicable. There were no further questions from members and Tim thanked Ann for her continued commitment to the role of treasurer.

5. Webmaster Report

Jan presented her report. Upgrades to the website include being able to download hands now we have the dealing machine. She invited members to inform her of their phone numbers if they wished to have these added to the members' area of the website to help increase their chances of finding partners.

The most significant change over the past year has been the introduction of the Bridgemates scoring system. It has not been without its challenges and the current scorers will be receiving some additional training addressing some of the issues that have arisen during our sessions, as well as the operation of the dealing machine. Additional volunteers would be welcomed.

It is very helpful for the scorers if at least one player of a partnership can arrive in good time, especially if new visitors are involved. It is not possible to set up the system until the number of pairs is known. Taking care with entering and checking player numbers and results in the machines really helps; if no corrections are required, the session result can be available very soon after the last hand has been played.

There were no questions from members and Tim thanked Jan for all her hard work.

6. Membership Report

Steve was co-opted to the committee over the past year when the position became vacant after the 2014 AGM. He presented his report. There were no questions. Tim thanked Steve for taking on this role.

Election of Committee for 2015 – 2016

The five current committee members had all indicated their willingness to continue in their current roles; there had been no other nominations. Tim Burrell, Janet Bell, Ann Close, Jan Titcombe and Steve Hulm were all re-elected by the members present at the meeting.

7. Miscellaneous matters (requested by members)

There was a request for more peanut biscuits to be provided.

8. Any other business

Tim thanked Janet for making the arrangements for the AGM and for undertaking the role of secretary over the year.

A vote of thanks to the committee was endorsed by the members. Steve Hulm, who has been a member for a couple of years, expressed his appreciation for the commitment of the Founder Members who had established Briter Bridge Club 2 and that of Terry and Briony for setting up the original Briter Bridge Club before that.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Janet Bell (Secretary)

August 2015.