

**Minutes of 71st Annual General Meeting Farnborough(Kent)
Bridge Club Held on 13th September 2023**

Committee, The Chairman Mike Rafferty, The Treasurer Chris Clegg, The Acting secretary Jo Lightfoot, Committee members John Hunt, Wendy Church.

Co-opted members Jan Johnson Rodney Meredith.

Members present were:

Joan Chandler, Graham Clements, Don Mitchell, Gordon McBride, Tony Conway, Richard Anscombe, Moya Nesom, Norman Inniss, Richard Creamer, Alan Foster, Gillian Foster, Yogi Rajah, Margaret Jones, Bob Manser, John Hunter, Brian Grimwood, Indiana Hamilton, Bob Kendall, Mary Kendall, Richard Gibbons, Helen Gibbons, James Foster, Brian Hogg, Susan Phillips, Charles Scott, Ian Galletti, Tom Smith, Tony Urwin, Meera Gandhe, Michael Collins, Luke Kerr, Rajinder Sehmi and Jean O'Doherty (33).

1. Apologies for absence

Val Smith, Jenny Kerr, Christine Kempton, Marian Hunt, Brad Featherman, Arthur Thomasson, Nicki Thomasson, Michael Graves, Katie Graves, Steve Ripley, Edina Rosta , John Powell, Roy Lambert, Mary Richards, Colin Game, Roger Pechey, Lesley Pechey, David Hudson. Suzanne Walsh , Neil Wotherspoon, Jackie Wotherspoon.

2. Approval of Minutes of 70th AGM

_Leila Williams proposed, Gordon McBride seconded. All in favour.

3. Matters Arising. Nil

4. Chairman's Report

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2023

I am pleased to report the club continues to make steady progress since covid, we have welcomed many new members and lapsed members and hope they are enjoying the bridge and friendship extended to them by all club members.

On behalf of the members, I would very much like to thank all the committee for fulfilling the many tasks, and of course we rely on the goodwill of members who volunteer to be on the committee, Wendy for catering, the scoring team, the directors, preparation of boards, opening and closing and Jenny for village hall liaison. Also, Mirna and John for their support for the web site and scoring programme, which must be over 20 years ago!

A special mention to those members who are unable to attend the club due to illness, namely Jackie Wotherspoon and Pam Green, we wish them a speedy recovery and return to the club.

The club aims to cater for all abilities and all members are equally valuable to the club.

This is all really about playing bridge; Farnborough members have excelled in winning major competitions this year.

A most successful year on many fronts culminating in the winning of the Corbett Cup by Farnborough A, this was last achieved back in 2006-07.

Our 2023 winning team was Mike Hampton and Stefan Syplywczak, Stephen Brown and Michael Collins, Norman Selway and Kay Preddy, Norman Innis and Christine Kempton.

We have retained three cup team places and one plate team for 2024.

The Hunter Homines mens pairs was won by John Amor and John Hemington

Phillimore Cup 2nd - Norman Selway and Kay Preddy

National Inter-county league T8 - Kay and Norman and Mike Hampton and Michael Prior – members of the winning team

Green Pointed Swiss Pairs winners – Kay and Norman

Arnold Cup winners - Kay and Norman, Mike Hampton and Michael Prior

Arnold Plate winners – Won by Christine Kempton's team.

Congratulations to the many club members who have achieved fine results in various external competitions during recent months.

Please forgive me if I have missed anyone out.

I'm sure you will be pleased to know that John Hemington, despite being a busy working man has agreed to be our Match Captain.

Last but by no means least, the success of the club is down to you all - the members – those who contribute in so many ways helping at the opening and closing each Wednesday and Friday and those who just help when asked.

Ultimately the members are what make this club what it is – an extremely enjoyable and social club with very high standards of competitive bridge.

As chairman I am here to listen to members' concerns and requests and when in best interest of all the members implement them.

Remember to be pleasant when you're playing it makes life so much easier.

Mike Rafferty (Chair)

5 Treasurer's Report

I can report the year-end audit has been successfully completed and the independent Examiner of Accounts,

Richard Anscombe, has provided an unqualified opinion. I thank him for his help and advice.

I want to thank everyone who has helped with financial matters and the running of the club. Special mentions go to David and Hilary Powell for their help in installing Bridgeweb's attendance module, Richard Creamer for his input on the website, Jenny Kerr for help during rent negotiations and last but not least Wendy Church who saves us £2.500 per year in catering costs.

The accounts show a surplus of £99.60, down £1626.61 on 2022, due mainly to token repayments and increases in catering costs, hall rental and competition fees. At the start of the year 302 tokens were in circulation, so £755 was credited to members. On April 1st hall rent rose 18% to £13 per hour (the first increase for 4 years) and catering costs (and consumption) have risen throughout the year. Add this to cost of entering 4 teams, including lunch, in the Corbett Cup and a small loss at the Christmas party, and our finances have taken a hit.

As costs continue to increase, I propose that subscriptions should be increased to £12 (backdated to August 1st, 2023) and Table Money should go up to £3 per session (effective October 1st, 2023). In 2022 we averaged 8.5 tables a session, and that has increased to 8.7 tables (870 tables in 100 sessions) in 2023. We currently have 124 members, one more than last year.

As this is my first and last report as Treasurer, I would like to thank you all for your patience whilst we changed from the token system to invoicing in arrears., and to remind everyone that it would help my successor hugely if you make sure that you only put your EBU number down on all payment references.

John Hunt proposed acceptance of this report, seconded by Rodney Meredith. All in favour.

Richard Anscombe was thanked by the membership for his work.

6 Election of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Richard Anscombe agreed to undertake this task for 23/24.

He was proposed by Richard Creamer and seconded by Jan Johnson. All in favour.

7.Election of Officers

Of the 2 candidates for Chairman, Mike Rafferty was proposed by Norman Selway and seconded by Kay Preddy, Chris Clegg was proposed by Marian Hunt and seconded by Robert Kendall. All the proxy votes and the votes from the room were counted, Chris Clegg was declared the winner and new Chairman. There was one nomination for the post of Treasurer: John Hunt, proposed by Chris Clegg and seconded by Rodney

Meredith. There was one proposal for Hon.Secretary: Jo Lightfoot proposed by Lesley Pechey, seconded by Roger Pechey. These 2 posts were unanimously accepted

There were 3 nominations for committee members: Wendy Church, proposed by Christine Kempton, seconded by Marian Hunt; Rodney Meredith, proposed by Mike Rafferty, seconded by Bob Manser; and Joan Chandler, proposed by Jo Lightfoot and seconded by Gordon McBride. All these proposals were accepted.

The new Chairman ,thanked Mike Rafferty for his time as chairman and the room gave Mike a warm round of applause.

8:Subscriptions and Table Money

The outgoing treasurer, Chris Clegg, proposed that subscriptions should increase by a pound to £12 , backdated to August 1st, 2023 and that table money be increased to £3 per session, effective from October 1st,2023. Acceptance of this proposal was by John Hunt, seconded by Leila Williams.The room voted in favour unanimously.

Norman Inniss commented that we already have considerable reserves and he hoped the expanding revenue would be used constructively.

9.Proposals

The secretary had received 2 proposals for consideration from Graham Clements:

1. The committee should establish procedures for effective communication with members and these procedures should be made explicit in the club's constitution.

After discussion this proposal was considered to be covered effectively under 5.6 and 5.7 of the constitution. The Chairman said he intended more efficient use of the website.

2. The committee should review all sections of the current constitution to ensure that it is both practical and fit for purpose. Approval for the complete revised version to be sought at the next AGM.

The hon. Secretary reported that at present there is no list of members' addresses held by the club. There are only email and phone numbers. The constitution requires a list of addresses.

After discussion John Hunter suggested that this second proposal be turned down. A show of hands supported this view.

10. AOB.

John Hunt was thanked for preparation of trophies. Chris invited Mike to present the trophies. Mike was reluctant but they were presented between him and John.

11.Presentation of Trophies

Trophy Winners 2022/2023

Boxwell Cup Championship Pairs

Norman Innis & Christine Kempton

Smith Cup Teams of 4 Championship

Stephen Brown, Phil Jones, Michael Collins, Luke Kerr

De Winter Cup Ladies' Pairs

Wendy Church & Pam Green

Hitch cup Men's Pairs

Phil Jones & Stefan Syplywczak

Rayner Trophy Mixed Pairs

John Hemington & Jennifer Viles

Poole Fitch

Gillian Foster & Alan Foster

Hopper Cup Cut in Teams

Norman Innis, Christine Kempton, John Hunt, Rodney Meredith

Jackson Cup

Tony Conway

Rayner Cup runner up in Jackson Pairs

Roger Pechey

The Hampton Shield

Wendy Church

Friday Cup Friday Pairs

Don Mitchell

Lines Trophy Most master points gained

Christine Kempton

Having no further business the meeting closed at 8.15.

