Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015

The Netherwood – Tuesday November 17th – 6.00pm

Apologies. Marie Hicks. Yvonne Wareing. Sam Norman. Richard Brazier. Christine Ord-Smith. David Lowe. John Maclachlan. 13 present

Minutes of previous meeting These were read out by the secretary.

Matters arising The stand in system had been discussed in committee. It was decided to continue with it and publicise the exceptions which were age,(over90) illness or distance,(over 20 miles). Non members are not required to be a stand in but pay an extra £1 each week.

Slow play was also discussed. Both the directors and the chairman have spoken to offenders. It was decded not to use a time clock. A very difficult issue to resolve as it is not always clear who is the offender.

Chairman’s report I hope you all agree it has been another enjoyable year with good bridge played in a friendly and relaxed club. A big thanks to John and Alan for keeping it that way. Our player numbers have increased and we are in profit. Derek will explain more.

But it has also been a sad year as several members have passed away. Those who played years ago will remember Jean Knipe and Margo Gawith, also Dudley Mart who left for Southport 2 years ago. Then we lost our two 96 year old treasures Beth Whitehead and Betty Limb. Beth was the last remaining founder member of this club. We shall remember them all with fond memories. So take care of your selves – I have been to too many funerals this year.

I would like to thank all the committee for their help and support and in particular those who do so much work for us – John, Bob, Derek and Alan. O is standing down this year but I am delighted that all other committee members have agreed to stand again with Chris nominated to resume his role as club secretary.

There are two changes which could significantly affect our future. First the Neherwood is under new ownership and we do not know how this might affect us but I do know they value our presence here so hopefully there will be no significant change. Secondly both Kendal and Windermere are considering introducing afternoon bridge. About two thirds of our members are from outside the Grange area and we often have 3 tables from Kendal. I urge members from Kendal to speak up for Grange against a Tuesday afternoon decision which would have serious implications for Grange.

Finally I can I thank you all for your continuing support of the club, especially those who have to travel, and for helping to maintain the friendly ambience which is fundamentally important to a successful club.

Secretary’s Report Membership again remains faifly stable this year being 67. The committee has met twice during the year and minutes of the meeting in September are on the notice board.

The annual dinner in January was a great success with increased numbers. Next January it is on Tuesday January 12th followed by bridge as usual. The price has been held at the same as last year which includes coffee and table money. The Netherwood will not be closing in January so we do not have to find alternative premises at all. There is no bridge on Tuesday December 29th.

This year we welcomed Stuart Taylor onto the committee and we are always on the lookout for new blood. I am not standing next year as secretary as we are moving house. I am near enough that I hope to remain a member but a little far away to continue satisfactorily as secretary.

Treasurer’s Report We expected to operate at a loss this year but in fact have made a surplus of £477. This mainly due to extra visitors who are either regulars (avoiding being stand in) or holiday visitors. Cash reserves are strong. We are down a little on table money. Th accounts were accepted by the meeting. Proposed Mike Howse. Seconded Hilary Parker. Thanks were given to Peter Jeffrey for auditing the accounts. (A copy of the accounts is attached to these minutes)

Director’s report (Report given by Alan Anderson as John Maclachlan had sent his apologies)There have been few problems this year.The only recurring problem for the TD has been the audible discussion of hands which can spoil it for other tables. There have been a few difficulties with Scorebridge and considering the options on the Market we have adopted Mike Rothwell’s Gridge Scorer program. This has the advantage that Mike is available to sort out problems if they occur and in the few weeks we have used it have found it excellent. It is also used by other clubs in the area. The main other alternative was a program by Jeff Smith for the EBU. But change are contemplated for this so it is better to see how it operates.

We had our usual competions. The winners of the winter stratified competition were A – David Strawbridge and John Maclachlan B – Bob Bagot and Geoff Maskall C – Tony Hodds and Rod Champion Winners of the summer handicap were Eric Morell and Jean Meadowcroft for the 2nd year in succession.

We had one match against Kendal which we won in a closely fought encounter. Our thanks to Sam Norman for organising this. There is a proposal that we run a South Lakeland league to replace friendly matches. We have problems over a venue for such matches and the calendar is pretty full. The committee will consider this and let Westmoreland know our views.

Fnally Can I thank Alan Anderson, Bo Bagot and Stuart taylor who have assisted me in directing and making up the boards.

Table Money £4 was proposed y Derek Frobisher and accepted unanimously. The committee were given the power for one year to alter the table money if circumstances required it during the year. Proposed by Mike Howse and seconded by Jean Frobisher. It was thought highly unlikely this would be needed.

Election of Officers There was one nomination for each post and they were voted for en bloc.

Chairman David Strawbridge Pro-Bob Bagot Sec-Alan Anderson

Secretary Chris Wilkinson Pro-David Strawbridge Sec- Stuart Taylor

Treasurer Derek Frobisher Pro-Bob Bagot Sec-Stuart Taylor

Director John Maclachlan Pro-Alison Woodburne Sec-Alan Anderson

Committee Chritine Ord-Smith Jean Frobisher Stuart Taylor Alan Anderson All properly proposed and seconded.

Proposals There were none received by the secretary.

Any Other Business Thanks were given to the chairman. Bob Bagot was presented with a very nice bottle of whiskey.

Meeting closed at 6.45pm