

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE MORDEN RUFFIANS BRIDGE CLUB
HELD ON 7th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.00 PM**

Present:

Barbara McCormick (Chairman), Clare Rice (Treasurer), Karen Gunner (Play Director), Peter Morris (Member), Jean Morris (Member), Helen Sergent (Member), Pat Holroyd (Secretary)

Apologies: Douglas Easton, Carl Houghton, Viera Rudkins, Sally Hankinson, Sue Saxton, Paul and Sandra Merryweather,

There were 16 members in attendance with others members arriving during the meeting

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Chairman asked if there were any comments regarding the AGM Minutes held on 23rd September 2015. There were none, so the Minutes were accepted.

2. Chairman's Report – Barbara McCormick

Barbara McCormick welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and said it was pleasing to see so many members attending.

It has been a real pleasure and privilege to have been Chairman of the Bridge Club for the last few years and our main aim is to be a friendly, welcoming Bridge Club and I would like to thank all of you and particularly the committee for your support and ideas.

3. Treasurer's Report – Clare Rice

We have gained one extra member over the last year. Fees were put up to enable us to buy the dealing machine which we did and the machine gives us more interesting hands. The cost of the dealing machine was offset to some extent as due to the refurbishments of the Village Hall the replacement venue was given to us free of charge saving us the cost of the rent. You will see from the Accounts that I made a stationery order this year amounting to £101.10p. We made a net loss of £527 for the year but we still have £1,749 in the bank.

Clare Rice: Could I please acceptance of the unaudited accounts.

Agreed Unanimously

4. Programme Director's Report – Karen Gunner

We continue to have 7 or 8 tables with a high of 12 tables one evening. Thanks to Morgan's classes, new members are joining in and are doing very well.

We had another successful Memorial Bridge Evening in aid of the Garden House Hospice raising £850 so thank you to all who supported this worthy cause.

Thank you to all the club directors who try their best to keep everyone to time, and to clear up and rectify any problems that might occur. Our apologies if you feel pushed or rushed sometimes but as most players want to finish at 10 pm, it is necessary.

Thank you to all who volunteer for the tea rota – this involves bringing the milk and setting it up, it does not involve clearing up after others and washing up.

A special thank you to Clare and Peter Rice. Since the dealing machine has purchased, the boards arrive dealt and the hands printed out for you to take with you at the end of the evenings. They do this in their own time even leaving advance boards when they are on holiday. This is a big time saver for the Directors when setting up, but we still rely on members arriving earlier to help set up chairs and tables – so thank you to those of you who do arrive early to do this.

Finally the presentation of our two awards:

The first one is for the most improved pair with an increase of 5.5% John Scully and Sally Hankinson.

The most improved player with a 5% increase is Shirley Avery

5. Nomination and Votes for New Committee Members- Pat Holroyd

There are two members of the Committee reaching the end of their tenure this year – Barbara McCormick as Chairman and Pat Holroyd as Secretary. The following club members have been nominated for:

Chairman - Peter Rice
Proposed by Maggie Paget-Wilkes
Seconded by Jean Morris
Agreed Unanimously

Secretary - Maggie Paget-Wilkes
Proposed by Sandra Merryweather
Seconded by Peter Morris
Agreed Unanimously

Member – Douglas Easton
Proposed by Helen Sargent
Seconded by Trevor Osborne
Agreed Unanimously

6. Web Update- Peter Rice

All working very well.

7. Charity Bridge Evenings 2016/17.

- (a) Children in Need 16th November 2016
- (b) Garden House Hospice 5th April 2017

It has been suggested that on the Garden House Hospice Evening, ticket prices, donations etc should be gift aided. This would involve tax payers completing a form and handing it in.

We would ask the Hospice to provide Gift Aid Forms.

Agreed by a majority

8. Randomized Playing Positions

This would mean that in the majority of cases, members would either pick a card saying North/South or East/West which be their starting position or toss a coin before the play started (heads being North/South, tails East/West). Exceptions would be made for members who found it difficult to change tables and they would sit North/South.

Majority agreed in principle.

9. Christmas Party 2016 – 14th December 2016

Same programme as before with everyone signing up to bring a dish and we have mulled wine.

10. AOB

(a) Tea Rota: At the moment we have a volunteer tea rota but it has been suggested by a club member that all members should take their turn by having a rota with dates alongside and all members, should be on the rota, with the exception of the Directors. The member would then be responsible for bringing the milk and setting out the tea/coffee items on arrival. If they are unable to make the date allocated, they would swop with another person on the list.

Can we have a vote on this proposal by a show of hands, please?

For a rota:	6
Against:	14
Abstentions	1

The volunteer rota will remain at the present time.

(b) Phil Titchener raised the point that players taking part in bridge competitions should have played a minimum number of games before participating in competitions. Peter Rice said he would look into this for future competitions.

Peter Rice thanked Barbara and Pat for all their work over the past years.

The Meeting closed at 7.25

Circulation: All club members