

STANSFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 24th January 2019 **at Stansfield Village Hall**

Present: Richard Evans (Chairman) Pauline Broad (Secretary) David Unwin (Treasurer) Keith Jaggard (membership) Denise Webb (i/c nibbles) Sheila Barnes and 14 club members.

Apologies: Jackie Chester, Elizabeth Ward, Maggie Ellison

Minutes of AGM held on 18th January 2018 agreed.

Chairman's Report: Following the excitement of 2017, 2018 also proved an excellent year for the club. 824 tables of bridge – an average of 16.5 tables a week were hosted by the club, an 11% increase on 2017. As hoped, some Thursday night players also started playing on a Tuesday night and now the numbers playing at the two weekly session are broadly similar. New people have joined the club and membership continues to grow. At the end of 2018 the club had 132 members affiliated to the EBU, making it the third largest in the county after Ipswich and Abbeygate.

The club did well in county events. Stansfield were runners-up in the Suffolk Teams of 8 against some of the best in the county. The first team remains in the first division of the summer league and the second team showed improvement in the second division.

Learn and Play continues to flourish. Pauline and Jackie, who help to run the Wednesday afternoon sessions, have also started teaching beginners. Both undertakings are critical to the club's future.

The club's success does not happen by chance. Principally people travel to the small village of Stansfield to play bridge because the club continues to be welcoming and friendly to players of all abilities. Richard emphasised that this must never change.

And the club has fun too. What other club has its own barman serving fine wine with panache? What other club has its own master chef who produces fabulous bridge lunches? Following on from which Richard thanked Gerry for all he has done down the years – his daughter Emily now stepping into his chef's shoes.

Richard thanked the committee for the time and effort they put into running the club. David Unwin has now taken over as Treasurer from Sheila, who for several years did sterling work. Sheila remains on the committee.

Thanks were also given to the regular helpers who do so much to make the club tick with their willing help in setting up and clearing away. And Richard ended his report with a request that it would be of great help if some more members could stay a little later in the evening to help tidy up in the hall and in the kitchen.

Treasurer's Report: David paid tribute to Sheila from whom he has taken over and thanked her for passing on such efficient accounts. At the end of 2017 the balance stood at £1,900. On 31 December 2018 it stood at £2,500.

Membership Report: Keith confirmed that at the end of 2018 there were 132 members affiliated to the EBU and to date 79 members have paid their annual subscription for 2019 (due on 1 January each year).

Nomination and Election of Committee: The committee was re-elected on block, proposed by John Bloomfield and seconded by Mary Rix.

Any Other Business: Pauline thanked Richard for the work he puts into keeping the club moving forward and for continuing his chairmanship of the club with such enthusiasm.