



WAKEFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

Annual General Meeting
Monday 29 April 2019, at 7.15 pm

Minutes



The President welcomed all those attending and thanked them for their support.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from 99 members: Sue Arnold, Sylvia Barns, John Barrows, Phyllis Bingham, Barbara Birkbeck, Carol Blackall, Roger Blackall, Elaine Blain, Enid Braddock, Jane Bradley, Geoff Bragg, Margaret Bren, Richard Brook, Val Carter, George Chambers, Anne Charlton, Liz Clarke, Andrew Cliffe, Penelope Cliffe, Barry Copley, Naomi Coulson, Carol Count, June Crossland, Maree Crossley, Sheila Cutt, Christine Daley, Bill Davies, Jenny Davies, Lizi Denton, Liffy Donnachie, Janet Easter, Richard Ellis, Jennifer Ellis, Angela Fletcher, Richard Fletcher, Joyce Fowell, Robert Fowell, John Fowler, Sue Fowler, Robert Frost, Alison Gorman, Ray Gorman, Tom Graham, Anne Haith, David Hammond, Margaret Hammond, Mary Hampton, Veronica Hartley, Anne Hawkins, Jane Hawkins, Chris Hammill, Christine Hewitt, Roger Holmes, Dave Hughes, Bryan Hutton, Paul Jackson, Carol Jennison, Tony Johnson, Alan Jones, Dorothy Jordan, Jan Kew, Lawrence Kinlin, Thelma Leatham, Rose Lee, Gerry Lumb, Elaine MacGregor, Liz Maher, Linchen Manley, Anne Metcalfe, Margaret Nichol, Carol Otley, Roger Parker, Pauline Parker, Oliver Paynter, Roger Pickup, Marilyn Poole, Deborah Poppleton, Helen Richardson, Derrick Richmond, John Roberts, Malcolm Robinson, Sheelagh Rodgers, Pat Sellwood, Andrea Senior, Viv Sercombe, Alison Sharp, Sue Smith, Adam Speight-Hulme, Angela Speight-Hulme, Christine Stack, Sylvia Stanhope, Audrey Thompson, Stuart Trewartha, Sue Twohig, Stewart Tyson, Janet Walker, John Walker, Peter Wallace and Mike Waters.

Forty-six members were present: Nigel Walker (President), in the chair; Christine Archbell, Beverley Barrows, Shirley Bastow, David Bellamy, Alan Braddock, Jennifer Bragg, Cath Carr, Linda Cartwright, Steve Cartwright, Allan Clarke, Laurie Earle, David Elliot, Gail Elliot, Martin Fenton, Ann Fitt, Bryan Grayson, Stephen Hanslip, Liz Jackson, Peter Jeans, Tony Kent, Pat Lambert, Les Lamma, Brian Leggetter, Karen Lemm, Prem Mackenzie, Rosemary Makings, Chris Maynard, Pat Maynard, John Milne, Marilyn Monaghan, Tony Murray, Geoff Newman, Russ Parkinson, Danny Parsonson, David Poisson, Richard Porteus, Janet Pratt, David Redfean, Keith Risely, Margaret Sewell, Sue Thick, Trevor Thick, Dennis Thompson, Margaret Watson and David Westwell.

2. The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 16 April 2018

Chris Maynard proposed, and Laurie Earle seconded, that the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 16 April 2018 be accepted as a true record. That was agreed unanimously.

3. Matters arising

Item 4 - Treasurer's Report: the suggestion that we buy a second Duplimate machine had been acted upon in September; both machines were now in regular use.

4. Treasurer's Report - Beverley Barrows

'INCOME: Membership and subsequently subscriptions has increased considerably. This is obviously reflected in an increase in table money. It is pleasing to report that attendances at all sessions have increased suggesting that the beginners and improvers are beginning to move on. Monday morning attendances increased by 33% reflecting Danny's continued commitment to teaching and Stephen's Learn Bridge in 24 hours initiative. Tuesday evening attendance increased by 17%, Monday evening by 3% and Thursday evening by 8%.

EXPENDITURE: The increase in room hire reflects a basic 5% increase in the hourly rate plus the refund of extra membership fees. Increased attendance naturally leads to increased Pay to Play payments and increased expenditure on basics such as score cards and playing cards. We also replaced many of the worn 1 Club and Pass bidding cards. Following various IT problems the Committee decided to upgrade the equipment. The major increase in expenditure was therefore a new computer, a back-up laptop and a second Duplimate (card-dealing) machine. This expenditure also raised the issue of insurance and we decided to take out EBU insurance to cover all our equipment whether it is kept at the Club or at someone's home. The £51 fee is included under Pay to Play as are all payments to EBU.

Finally, a word about Charity Donations. Overall the money donated to Charity was less than last year for the pleasant reason that fewer members shuffled off the mortal coil so there were fewer funeral donations. The money from the Christmas Raffle was divided between Wakefield Hospice, Barnardo's, Cancer Research and the local Parkinson's Support Group. In addition, members' 1p, 2p and 5p pieces paid in table money have added up to the grand total of £12.18, all donated to Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Overall we made a surplus of £1,028.25.'

Dave Westwell proposed that the meeting accept the report, Margaret Watson seconded that, and it was carried by acclaim. The President thanked Beverley for all the work she had put in over the year, and that was echoed by those present. A copy of the financial statement is available from the Treasurer.

5. Match Secretary's Report - Geoff Newman

'Well, after the successes of last year, this season did not go particularly well.

The A team set off poorly by losing their first 3 matches before drawing their fourth only to lose the fifth; a win in the sixth match actually gave them a slim chance of staying in division one but a heavy defeat in the last match meant they finished last and will be playing in division two next year.

The B team did better by winning three matches and losing four to finish in sixth place and so avoided relegation by eight points so will stay in division four next season.

The C team were more successful, they started with a loss but then won five of the remaining six matches to finish in third place in division six and so will be playing there next season.

Like the A team, the D team found it hard going in division eight only managing to win one of their seven matches and so finished in seventh place and relegation to division nine for next season.

This year saw the introduction of a fifth Wakefield team entering in division eleven, they started very well with three wins and a draw and after four matches were lying in second place, unfortunately this was followed by three losses which saw them finish in a very creditable fourth place.

Sixty-one people played in the League this year in 45 different partnerships and I would like to thank them all and hope that they enjoyed it and will play again. I must once again thank the rest of the selection committee and the team captains for all their work during the season and also Beverley and Pat for organising the food for our home matches. I am starting to take names of people who would like to be considered for selection for next seasons matches so please let me know if you would like to take part.

For those who would like to see how you fared I have uploaded the season summary to the website.'

In the brief discussion which followed particular thanks were extended to Les Lammas for his work in forming and leading the new E team.

The President thanked Geoff for all his work as Match Secretary - and again, that was echoed by those present.

6. WYSSC Management Committee Report - Pat Lambert

Pat reported that the Representatives' Committee now had a chairman - Les Goddard - and that either she or Laurie Earle had represented the Bridge Club at every meeting. The Agenda at these meetings was constant, discussing how to market the club as a whole, and how to involve existing members more. The Bridge Club would be represented by a team of five at the Quiz Evening on Wednesday 8 May.

Her report last year had optimistically forecast a start on the new site in April 2018, but a year on it seemed that the final paperwork had still to be signed.....

The Representatives had been disappointed at the lack of clarity from the Trustees over their (the Trustees') role, and it was hoped that a meeting in late May would clear the air somewhat. In the absence on holiday of both Pat and Laurie Margaret Sewell kindly agreed to attend that meeting on the club's behalf.

Circulation of the WYSSC Newsletter had been somewhat hit-and miss; the accuracy of the MailChimp mailing program was clearly an issue. The Bridge Club had supplied all members' email addresses (and offered to circulate Newsletters via Pianola) so we could only hope that things would improve in time.

The poor (and unsafe?) state of the Ladies' toilet was a matter of particular concern, and claims that the problems had been resolved were not borne out by experience. It was clear that WYSSC did not want to spend any money tackling the issue. The Secretary proposed that the Bridge Club should offer to pay for a visit by a plumber tasked to analyse the problem and draw up a plan for repairs, and this was supported by acclaim. Laurie would approach the management, with support from Beverley.

7. Secretary's Report - Stephen Hanslip

Stephen reported that membership had again continued to grow, reaching a peak of 198 as the club year ended. Many thanks for this were due to Danny Parsonson, whose work with beginners was a major contribution to the flow of new members.

Members who had initially played only on Monday morning and/or Tuesday evening were increasingly prepared to join in on Monday and Thursday evenings too - a very encouraging development. The Teams Events had certainly helped with this, and he asked that members make clear whether they wanted more of those (currently monthly, about the middle of the month, alternating between Mondays and Thursdays) and/or more Swiss Pairs Events - although that would depend on more help being offered.

He would still like to see more members take their part in the running of the club. He was grateful to Martin Fenton for taking over as Webmaster - the website is already looking fresher.

Members who called him asking for other members' phone numbers had to be content with him passing on a message asking for contact - under data protection rules he could not pass out phone numbers without agreement. Russ Parkinson reminded the meeting that members could make their contact details visible (to other members only) by adjusting the Privacy settings on their Pianola account; and Stephen hoped that more members would make use of this facility.

[Afternote: a four-step guide on how to do this is attached at the end of these Minutes.]

8. Presentation of Trophies

A separate list of competition winners had been compiled and circulated; the Secretary has copies. Only those trophies not presented earlier in the year were dealt with this evening.

Nigel Walker told the meeting that he had presented John Roberts with his Tuesday Average trophy in hospital, where John was slowly recovering from his recent stroke. He hoped that John would soon be back with us; it was clear that all present shared that feeling.

9. President's Remarks - Nigel Walker

Nigel began by pointing out that, in a break with tradition, he had been asked to continue as President for a second year, and he thanked the members for their confidence in him. It was a pleasure to represent the club, where the play was always competitive but good-spirited, and he was very appreciative of the efforts of those members who 'made it all work'. He thanked particularly Martin Fenton, for taking on the website, and Dave Hughes, for his work alongside Chris Maynard on the averages and handicaps.

He was especially impressed with the way that food appeared 'as if by magic' for all the home Team matches, and he thanked Pat Maynard and Beverley very much for that. He could see that the running of the club was 'in safe hands', and he made a particular point of thanking the Secretary (both in words and with a generous gift) for his contribution in different areas.

Taking up the theme of involvement, he noted that 58% of the membership was female, yet all but two members of the committee were male. He expressed the hope that lady members would not feel inhibited from playing their full part in the running of the club - the committee was not in any way exclusive.

The Secretary invited the meeting to express its thanks for Nigel's work, and for his agreement to continue as President, and was very strongly supported.

10. Election of Officers (and Committee members)

The number of posts available was exactly matched by the number of candidates for election, and the meeting was content to accept all the nominations. The new Committee is:

President	Nigel Walker	Committee Members	Steve Brough
Vice-President/WYSSC Rep	Pat Lambert		Laurie Earle (Asst WYSSC Rep)
Treasurer	Beverley Barrows		David Hughes
Assistant Treasurer	Danny Parsonson		John Jackson
Secretary	Stephen Hanslip		Chris Maynard
Match Secretary	Geoff Newman		Peter Wallace

11. Motion for discussion

The committee had proposed that all evening sessions should start at 7 pm. In the discussion which followed John Milne said that he and perhaps other members would find this difficult. Several members were concerned that - whatever time we started - the TDs were too lax in allowing slow play to delay the finish time; Dave Poisson urged greater use of the clock. The Secretary said that he had several times urged TDs that slow players not be allowed to linger too long over a hand, but members themselves also had some responsibility to play at a reasonable pace. The discussion was concluded by a vote in which 24 members voted for the motion, 11 against, with 4 abstentions. The new timings would start from Monday 6 May.

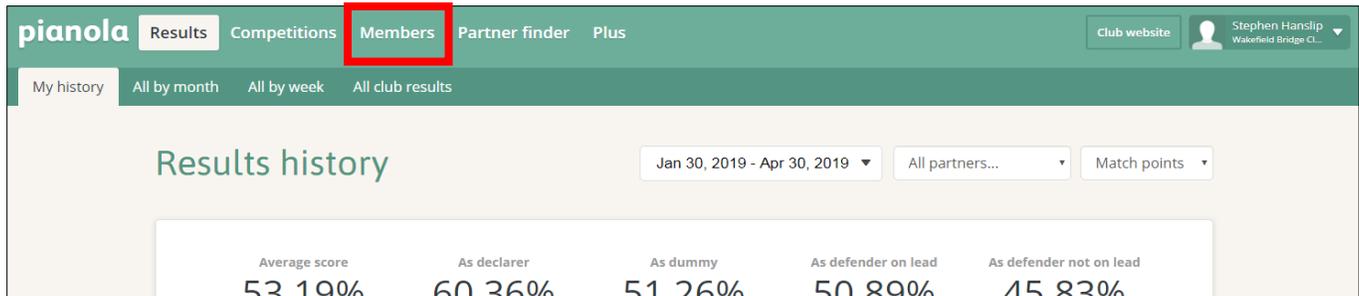
12. Any Other Business

There was no Other Business, so the President declared the meeting closed at 8 pm.

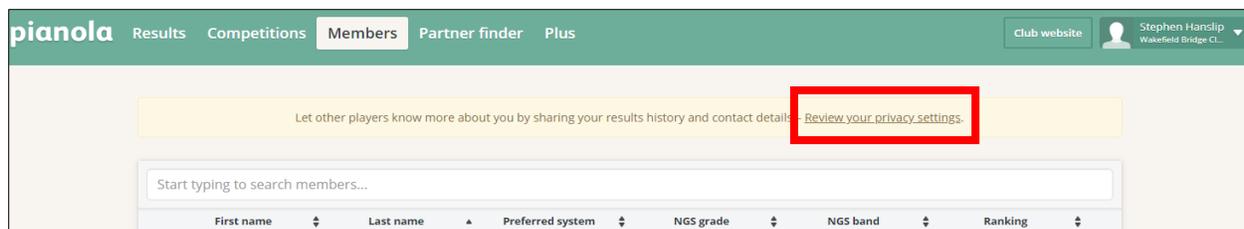
Stephen Hanslip, Secretary
30 April 2019

Members' contact details on Pianola:

1. Log in to your Pianola account. *If you have forgotten your user name and/or password please contact the Secretary.*
2. On the menu bar at the top of the page, click **Members**.



3. Click the link **Review your privacy settings**. **To find other members' details**, use the Search bar on that page, or scroll down the list of members and click on their name.



4. Select the options you are happy with, and click **Save Changes**.

