



Wallingford Bridge Club at Roke

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday 5 May 2017

Present: Colin Jones (Chairman), Norman Gascoyne (Vice Chairman), Joan Bennett (Treasurer), Debbie Roberts (Acting Secretary), Lyn Arnold, John Bird and 39 members.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced Ian Glynne, Chairman of Roke Parish Council, the guest speaker who would be presenting the trophies.

1. Apologies for absence

9 apologies were received from Graham Rayner (President), Jayne Watney (Secretary), Isobel Townley-Freeman, Geoff Nicholas, Malcolm Currie, Sally Tooher, David & Yvonne Frost & Francis Glassborow.

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Life Membership award

Gratitude was expressed for everything our Chairman has done for the Club. In recognition of his years of outstanding service Colin Jones was awarded Life Membership.

4. Chairman's Report (Colin Jones)

I am pleased to report that Wallingford Bridge Club has had another successful year. We have increased attendances by approximately 10% on last year's record numbers. Table money rose from around £23k to £25k.

This last financial year has seen the much needed new cladding and double glazed windows finally being installed. It should provide a lasting improvement to the facilities. The club has guaranteed the Village Hall Committee financial support in the form of an extension of the 'rent free' extension to the hire arrangements to help finance the project.

The year has also seen yet another investment of over £4k in an attempt to improve the overflow car park. While the situation is better, it is still not ideal in the winter months and a permanent solution is required.

Perhaps our major problems are those of success. The growth in membership has meant that some sessions are overcrowded. With more potential members coming through the school, the building needs to be expanded to offer multi use for bridge and other users in the village. The committee will be exploring options on how these can be addressed.

I have always believed that a friendly atmosphere and quality facilities supported by teaching are the key factors for success. The strength of the club ultimately rests on the friendly spirit and attitude of its members. The leaders are those that are prepared to offer their time in a voluntary capacity. I thank everyone who has taken on a role and encourage others to make a contribution however small. Many thanks to you all; there are too many names to mention.

5. Treasurer's Report (Joan Bennett)

As Colin has mentioned our numbers have continued to rise. We had 24 tables one Wednesday evening, which requires good humour from everyone, resulting in more tables, bridgemates, cards and boards being purchased as well as the chairs being recovered.

There is clearly no reason to change the table money even whilst improving members comfort. It has, in fact, been unchanged for the 5 years that I have been treasurer.

Subs were received from 280 paying members, the others being students, life or juniors. Due to Lyn's industry, we have already collected over 200 subscriptions for 2017-18.

The club ran a full set of director's courses during 2016, attended mainly by ourselves and OBC, and has now taken over the prizes for Dave's very popular ProAm nights which had been financed by the Woos for some time.

The VHC are continuing to repay our roof loan to them by us not paying rent to them. This means that as we are paying no rent (£6,600 p.a.), I have been able to transfer £6,000 back into our deposit account with Scottish Widows.

After many years Roger Griffiths has resigned his post as Auditor. Joan Bennett thanked him for his help, particularly mentioning his thoroughness and invaluable input.

6. Match Report (Adrian Lambe)

Firstly I'd like to thank our Captains for giving their time and devotion on behalf of the bridge club. Much organisation goes on behind the scenes taking into account players' holidays, producing a list of dates and contacting other captains to set matches.

I am pleased to report that after winning promotion last season, Dave Workmans team scored enough points to consolidate their place in Division 4. Their average score over five matches was a respectable 8.98.

Wendy's team are the stars this year. They took first place in Division 4 with an impressive 13.22 average. I'd like to congratulate Wendy and all her team players who contributed to this result. Division 3 awaits next year and our experienced C Team are very capable of performing well in this division.

After a run away promotion last season I regret to report the B Team did not score enough points to remain in Division 1. However, with so many talented players I expect Mike's team to bounce back in good style.

The A team won five out of seven with an average score of 13.28. I am grateful to Debbie for scoring every match and circulating Butler Score Sheets to players. Although we beat both Menagerie teams, on a cold dark evening we suffered a loss to Oxford who were unbeaten all season and went on to take the honours. We aim to put things right next year.

7. Elections

(i) Election of President and (ii) Vice President

The President, Graham Rayner, and Vice-President, Philip Simmonds, were duly re-elected.

In the absence of The President, Graham Rayner, Colin Jones stood down as Chairman.

Those present were asked to re-elect the Chairman and Colin Jones was duly re-elected.

(iii) Election of Officers and Non-Executive Committee Members

Vice-Chairman – Norman Gascoyne

Treasurer – Joan Bennett

Secretary – Jayne Watney

Membership Secretary – Lyn Arnold

John Bird

Susan Mace

Pauline Dunn

Stuart Fox

Yvonne Frost

David Seale

Patricia Hones

It was agreed by those present that all Officers and members of the Committee were elected.

(iv) Election of Auditor

With Roger Griffiths' resignation the post of Auditor is vacant. To be discussed by the Committee.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Prior to presenting the trophies, Ian Glynne (guest speaker) gave a short history of the building. Ian also noted the improvements to the building and praised Colin for successfully navigating the sensitive relationship between the Bridge Club and the village.

Ian Glynne then presented the trophies to the 2016 competition winners present:

Handicap Individual: Martin Neal

Handicap Pairs: Gillian Collins & Jannie Watson

Mixed Pairs: Olivia Woo & Alan Woo

Open Individual: Gillian Lonsdale

Open Pairs: Adrian Lambe & Ron Quainton

X-Imped Pairs: Olivia Woo & Alan Woo

Teams: Gillian Lonsdale, Colin Jones, Debbie Roberts & Geoff Nicholas (absent)

Peard Plate: Sally Tooher (absent), Sue Waddington, Gillian Lonsdale, Nigel Wilkes

Most Improved Student: Kevin & Victoria Goodall

Most Improved Monday Player: Robert Galland

9. Any Other Business

Section B needs a new laptop, the spare laptop will be given to them. The hall will have fibre optic broadband this summer, which should be a great benefit. Lack of space for Section B was discussed; plans are in place to move the filing cabinet into the main hall.

Mention was made of poor lighting in the corners of the main hall. To be discussed by the Committee.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.