



Wallingford Bridge Club at Roke

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 2 May 2018

Present: Colin Jones (Chairman), Norman Gascoyne (Vice Chairman), Graham Rayner (President), Joan Bennett (Treasurer), Jayne Watney (Secretary), Lyn Arnold, John Bird, Patricia Hones and 88 members.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence

5 apologies were received from Pauline Dunn, Michael Dunn, Marion Allin, Jennie Griffiths and Roger Griffiths.

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report (Colin Jones)

It has been a very successful year for the bridge club. Membership of the club at 391 has broken last year's record. We have now achieved over a decade of steady growth, hence attendances and our finances are very healthy. Bridge Teaching continues to attract high numbers of students and is critical to our success. We enjoy an excellent relationship with the Village Hall committee and the Parish Council and during this financial year this partnership has seen the completion of the external refurbishment of the building, new blinds and improvements to the playing area in the small room. These improvements will provide a lasting benefit to both the local community and the bridge club.

The Management Committee have explored modest changes to the building to provide a small teaching area, improved storage and a separate entrance to allow multi use e.g. Wessex League matches can take place without disturbing other hirers. These ideas are still alive but may now have to be phased in.

During this last winter we experienced some of the worst weather for some years. The overflow car park was out of action for many months - I am personally grateful to those who helped get my car out of the mud. The main focus for the management committee now will be on improving the overflow parking,

Finally I should like to thank all the members of the club who have given their time voluntarily to make the club so successful, and my personal thanks to those others who have expressed interest in helping to run the club in the future.

4. Treasurer's Report (Joan Bennett)

This year's table money exceeded £30K which is amazing. For ease, it is shown in the accounts as net of both directors and scorers, an amount of £2,000. This means that we can continue to improve members' comfort whilst not increasing the table money, since we made a small surplus, after capitalising the new dealing machine, and have adequate funds.

We spent over £4,000 on repairs this year, mostly on work to the teaching room and the sun blinds. Thanks to Norman and Chris Gascoyne for their efforts.

Subs were received from 318 paying members, the others being students, life members or juniors. Due to Lyn's industry and the cooperation of the members, we have already collected over 277 subscriptions for 2018-19.

The club ran a St John's First Aid course to train our volunteers, and a TD update on the new rules during the year.

We lent £11,800 to the Village Hall Committee for the cladding which looks fantastic, and are continuing to not pay rent to them for a further 2 years. This loan was funded from our Scottish Widows deposit, the balance of which has been reduced by £5,000 this year.

Neil Linkleter has taken over as independent examiner from Roger and audited the accounts on 30 April 2018. They were approved by the members present.

5. Match Report (Adrian Lambe)

Len Salmon Trophy

Len Salmon was a member of both Abingdon and Wallingford Bridge Club and this event is held in Len's memory as a reminder of the close ties between our two clubs. A large number of participants are members of both clubs which reinforces the good relationship between us today. The event is generally a tightly fought affair and in 2017 the scales tipped in favour of Wallingford. We are grateful to Abingdon Bridge Club for their generous hospitality and look forward to welcoming their team to Wallingford in 2018.

Wessex

Congratulations to Mike Bennett's B Team for securing an impressive victory in Division Two, resulting in an automatic promotion back to Division One. The A Team finished strongly after an initial setback to finish third of eight. At time of writing the result of the final match between Abingdon A and Menagerie B is subject to appeal so it is not known who will join Abingdon B in Division Two next season.

Wendy's C Team had promotion snatched away following a surprise heavy defeat to the eventual Division Three winners, Witney.

After an impressive promotion last season, Dave Workman's D team find themselves back in Division Five after a challenging year.

A suggestion has been made to the OBA to reduce the number of divisions from five to four and increase the number of teams in Division One. Opinions have been sought but a decision is not expected until the start of the new season.

6. Changes to Club Constitution

The draft disciplinary procedure which had been circulated to all members was accepted as an agreed change to the Club Constitution.

7. Elections

All current officers and committee members stood down.

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

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

Graham Rayner (President) asked Colin Jones to stand 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

Julie Bird

Treasurer – Joan Bennett

Pauline Dunn

Secretary – Jayne Watney

Stuart Fox

Membership Secretary – Lyn Arnold

Patricia Hones

John Bird

David Seale

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

Thanks were recorded to Yvonne Frost who has resigned from the committee following several years of service to the club. Julie Bird has joined the committee.

(iv) Election of Auditor

Those present agreed to elect Neil Linkleter as Auditor.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Graham Rayner presented the trophies to the 2017 competition winners present:

Handicap Individual: Anthony Godfrey

Handicap Pairs: Cliff Hones & Patricia Hones

Mixed Pairs: Debbie Roberts & Geoff Nicholas

Open Individual: Roger Haycock

Open Pairs: Adrian Lambe & Ron Quainton

X-Imped Pairs: Debbie Roberts & Malcolm Currie

Teams: Nigel Wilkes, Roger Haycock, M Brown & J Slater

Pead Plate: Sue Waddington, Bridget Griffiths, Nigel Wilkes, Gillian Lonsdale

Most Improved Student: Richard Crawford

Most Improved Monday Player: Roxane Marffy

9. Any Other Business

- (i) Thanks were recorded to Jennie & Roger Griffiths who have relinquished responsibility for engraving the honours board after many years. Debbie Roberts will continue to take responsibility.
- (ii) The subject of awards and competitions was raised and it was agreed that the committee would consider all awards and competitions as to their relevance and popularity and decide which should continue in the future. The possibility of introducing competitions, such as a ladder on a Monday evening, will also be considered.

- (iii) It was pointed out that on a Monday evening it is nearly always an East/West sit-out. Also, when it was a Mitchel movement and players chose which position they wished to sit. It was agreed that the committee would address these issues through each of the sessions.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.27 p.m.