



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday 29 May 2015

Present: G Rayner (President), Colin Jones (Chairman), N. Gascoyne (Vice Chairman), Gillian Weatherley (Secretary), Joan Bennett (Treasurer), F. Glassborow.

Gill Adams, Jean Alexander, Marion Allin, Barbara Antrobus, Deborah Astley, John Barton, Mike Bennett, John Bird, Robert Dobson, Hannelore Ely, Jennie and Roger Griffiths, Roger Haycock, Ginnie Johnstone, Clive Keep, Gay Kyle, Adrian Lambe, Madeline Matthews, Liz McGiven, Beryl McGreevy, Inga and Keith McKenzie, Jo Murray, Marilyn Newbold, Gay and Chisholm Ogg, Prue Porter, Wendy Roderick, Graham Shaw, Margaret and Bob Sloper, Andrew Speyer, John Stayte, Maggie Wheeler, Jayne Watney.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lyn Arnold, Malcolm Currie, Pauline and Michael Dunn, Yvonne and David Frost, Debbie Roberts, David Seale, Andrea Smith, Isobel Townley-Freeman and Dave Workman.

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Chairman's Report

As I started to write this report I could hardly believe how quickly another year has passed for me as Chairman of Wallingford Bridge Club. It has yet again been a very successful year with many rewarding moments, as well as some challenges. We have made steady progress on many fronts, including improving attendances at many of the sessions and reinvested funds in improving the playing facilities.

I am honored to be your Chairman and lead a dedicated management committee and other committee members who give up their free time working for the club and making it successful. The club has grown in recent years. One of the problems of success has been the need to spread the workload so that a small number are not overburdened. The management committee has introduced changes, which include an 'organiser' for each session and members of the committee now taking management responsibility for identified tasks. These changes improved matters but scoring remains one of our continuing problems. We do need more volunteers.

It has always been my belief that providing a pleasant atmosphere in high-quality facilities is a key factor in our success. Attendances at our sessions remain at high levels and daytime bridge has proved popular perhaps underlining changing demographics in society. Occasionally one or two of the Friday evening sessions have been somewhat disappointing.

The year started with the reintroduction of membership subscriptions. I must acknowledge our thanks to Lyn Arnold who successfully led the process with help from Wendy Roderick and others. It has brought us back in line with other clubs and we can now boast an accurate membership list. Pleasingly, nearly a third of our members have opted to pay by

Standing Order or Bank Transfer and I encourage others to do so as this reduces administration.

The club invested heavily in internal alterations and improvements. The two small rooms were combined into one, LED lighting was installed throughout and the computer storage area was improved. The changes have been generally warmly welcomed. We now have greater flexibility with matches. The new roof and LED lighting have lowered our energy costs. The overflow car park has been a problem during the winter months. Improvements to the entrance were carried out recently.

Looking to the future, I do not see any radical changes to our strategy or the way we operate, and will continue plan to meet the needs of our members. No major items of expense are envisaged and I am expecting the club now to enter a period of financial consolidation, which should restore our reserves to former healthy levels.

4. Treasurer's Report

We have made a loss for the year of £3,000 after paying for all the work on the new teaching room, which we all believe to be a great success.

Our table money is slightly down on last year as we now give scorers free sessions, and have also played 11 sessions less than last year due to roof closures, the fire at SODC, a wedding and Xmas, so really very satisfactory.

Subs were received from 240 paying members, the other 60 being students, life or juniors. Our membership list is now accurate thanks to Lyn. As of 13th April 2015, we have already received £2,000 of this year's subs. Well done, both members and Lyn.

We pay the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) £2,400 p.a. for heating costs etc. Electricity is down 20%, and fuel oil down 30%, so no additional payment was needed this year- thanks to the roof and new insulation.

We arranged an in-house Book Rulings course for our new directors, 2 scoring training days by Martin Lee, and a First Aid course to upskill our membership. Some members then continued with the Judgement Rulings course and assessment day- well done.

As the VHMC are repaying our roof loan to them by us not paying rent to them, I have been able to transfer £5,000 back into our deposit account with Scottish Widows.

The EBU operate a BOGOFF system for their in house courses. The OBA have now agreed to cover the other half, so if anyone wants to attend any further courses, this can be done at no cost to the club. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for her report.

5. Match Report

The Secretary read the Match report.

Wallingford has been very successful in the Wessex League over the past few years; as with all good things, this had to end sometime, and this last year has been disappointing in comparison to our purple patch.

Our first team ran with only 3 fixed pairs, topped up and ably assisted by members from the B & C teams. Doing well until a thrashing in the last match, remaining in the first division, finishing in 5th place.

Our second team did well, but narrowly missed out on promotion, remaining in the second division.

Our third team seemed comfortably placed, until an unexpected result jumped a team above them, so forcing relegation to play in the 4th division next season.

Our fourth team had difficulties, Dermott Paddon had to opt out as Captain part-way through the season, our thanks to Andrew Speyer who filled the breach. Combined with a debacle with an away match, the team battled on through adversity, but relegation back to the 5th division is expected next year.

The Chiltern League had mixed results, winning 2 matches and finishing in the middle of the field.

Many thanks to our Captains for the year, Adrian Lambe, Norman Gascoyne, Wendy Roderick, Dermot Paddon, Andrew Speyer & Brenda and John Edwards. A Captain's job is not a simple one, well done to you all.

Looking forward, there are already discussions taking place for the upcoming season. Dave Workman has agreed to manage the fifth division team.

We are trying a new format for the Chiltern League next year. Francis Glassborow has taken over management, with a pro-am style.

To sum up, we are looking forward with high hopes for the upcoming season.

We are always looking for new blood, so please speak to one of the Captains if you are thinking of playing in teams next year.

6. Elections

Jean Squires sadly left the area, so she has resigned as Vice President but will remain as a Life Member. Dermot Paddon and Roy Newman have also resigned due to family commitments. The Chairman made special thanks to Gillian, who has resigned after several years as Secretary. He added he was indebted to the hard work and support she has given him as Chairman and to the club. Colin presented flowers, and the Chairman's comments were warmly endorsed by all attending.

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

The Chairman thanked the President for his tremendous support this year. The President, Graham Rayner, and Vice-President, Philip Simmonds, were duly re-elected.

Colin stood down as Chairman.

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

Graham thanked Colin for the good job he has done over the past year. He added that they had spent many hours on the phone and are getting on very well. He asked if there were any other candidates for Chairman. There were none. He asked those present to re-elect the Chairman. The Chairman was duly re-elected.

Vice Chairman – Norman Gascoyne
Treasurer – Joan Bennett
John Bird
Peter Finbow
Yvonne Frost
David Seale

Secretary – Jayne Watney
Membership Secretary – Lyn Arnold
Pauline Dunn
Richard Ford
Francis Glassborow
Graham Shaw

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

(iv) Election of Auditor

The Chairman thanked Roger Griffiths for auditing the accounts. Those present agreed to elect Roger as Auditor for the 2015-16 financial year. Roger kindly accepted. The Treasurer reported that Roger had done an incredible job and found a £100 error in pre-payment of the rent.

7. Presentation of Trophies

The President presented the trophies to the 2014 competition winners present:

Open Pairs : Adrian Lambe and Ron Quainton (absent).

Open Individual: Ron Quainton (absent).

Handicap Pairs: Barbara Antrobus and Francis Glassborow.

Handicap Individual (Albert Large Memorial Trophy) : Dave Workman (absent).

Mixed Pairs: Jean Squires (absent) and Norman Gascoyne.

Butler Scored competition: Joan Bennett.

Teams: Accepted by Clive Keep on behalf of his team mates Nigel Wilkes, Mike Brown and John Slater.

Pead Plate: Lyn Arnold, Gill Adams, Ginnie Johnstone and Robert Dobson.

Graham Rayner Cup for the Most Improved Monday Player: Gay and Chisholm Ogg.

Any other business

Francis Glassborow commented on slow play. The scorers, in particular on Wednesday, don't like finishing at 10.55pm. Everybody needs to think carefully about their speed of play. Beryl McGreevy asked if there was a reason why the timer was not being used all the time. Colin advised that using the timer is the director's choice and some directors don't like it. The President said that slow play also occurs on Thursday and Friday afternoons and that he had recently fined a pair for slow play. The club needs to strongly laydown the rules. Francis added the club needs a consistent procedure and that all directors should be encouraged to use the timer.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.25 pm.