

WALLINGFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 16 May 2012

Present: C. Jones (Chairman), G Weatherley (Secretary), G Rayner (President) ,
J Squires (Vice President), R Griffiths, (Auditor)

Committee: P Finbow, R Ford, N. Gascoyne, F Glasssborrow, J Griffiths, I Lascelles,
M Lucas, M Allin (Membership Secretary), R Quainton (Club Captain), J Brereton and 55
other members

1 **Apolgoies of absence**

Roger Haycock, Martin Neal, Pamela Gyton, Deborah Astley, Alan Prior, Andrea
Smith , Geoff Nicholas and Esme Collins.

2 **Minutes of 2011 AGM**

The minutes were approved with no matters arising.

3 **Chairman's Report**

This has been another excellent year for the Wallingford Bridge Club. We have
made steady progress towards achieving our strategic objectives. The bridge
playing environment has been improved, both membership and attendances have
increased and we have continued to develop competitive bridge in a friendly
atmosphere, underpinned by a healthy and successful bridge school.

Bridge Environment.

The management committee decided to improve the bridge playing environment,
we believe a comfortable playing environment is one of the key factors that
encourage attendance, particularly on cold winter nights. This year has seen the
unsatisfactory floor covering replaced with carpet tiles and new curtains fitted in the
main hall. The main hall was also redecorated and the sky lights sealed by
members of the club. In the summer, the external windows were repaired and
redecorated by largely the same volunteers. Particular thanks go to Alan Woo for
his generous donation towards the cost of the improvements. A new agreement
with the Village Hall Committee (VHC) was negotiated which allows the club more
flexibility to get on with minor repairs. The period of notice on our tenancy has been
increased. The club is now represented at the VHC meetings.

Membership and attendances

Membership has grown again and exceeded the previous years' record level. The
Wednesday 'no fear' section continues to be a success; the Committee looks
forward to welcoming the players at other club duplicates. In addition a new 'day-
time' bridge session has been introduced on a Friday afternoon which shows all the
signs of becoming popular - but it will need support from scorers and directors to
become firmly established. The 'relaxed bridge' on Thursday afternoons
continues to attract healthy attendances. The OBA Seniors event on the second
Monday in the month attracts steady numbers. Two 'prize evenings' were

introduced during the calendar year 2012. This has proved controversial for some members. The management committee has decided to review the success or otherwise of these events at the July meeting.

Teaching

Teaching continues to be successful and Wallingford can, I believe, claim to have one of the best teaching programmes in Oxfordshire. Special thanks go Gillian Weatherley and Francis Glassborow for their efforts in teaching and assimilating students into the main events – perhaps over half of players on a Monday have come through the classes since the introduction of the Bridge for All courses 11 years ago.

Finance

Despite substantial capital costs in improving the hall, the Treasurer will again report a small surplus. The table money has remained at £2.50 for a number of years. The increase in numbers has more than managed to offset the corrosive effects of inflation and other capital costs.

Ignoring any exceptional expenditure the club expects to continue to operate with a modest surplus. It has therefore been decided to maintain table money at £2.50 and not re-introduce annual subscription fees.

Future plans

One of the main improvements that have been planned for some time is the provision of lighting at the entrance to the overflow car park. This has become a protracted process as it needs the approval of the both the Parish Council – which was quickly forthcoming - and the local authority which is still awaited. Repairs to the car park surface are planned to take place when work starts on the car park lighting. Volunteers will be required at that time.

Apart from possible minor landscaping and enhancing the appearance of the building there are no other items of exceptional expense in the near future. However the VHC are faced with roof repairs at some stage which are likely to be expensive.

People

Firstly, a very special ‘thank you’ to Jill Brereton who has resigned as Treasurer following the tragic loss of Tony, her husband, who will be sadly missed. Thanks to Jill for all her excellent work as Treasurer.

Secondly, many thanks to Jennie Griffiths who has resigned after five years on the committee. Her contribution to the smooth running of the club has been outstanding.

Conclusions

I make no apology for repeating what has been said many times in the past.

Firstly, our game of bridge is very inexpensive, only because of the unpaid voluntary effort put in by members. I should like to thank everyone who has taken

on roles within the organisation of the Club – too many to mention- and encourage others to make a contribution however small. The more the workload is spread the more successful we will be.

Secondly, good behaviour is critical to our success. The need to be courteous and friendly at the bridge table is the EBU and our club's policy. Friendly behaviour will encourage people into the game by making bridge a pleasant occasion even if the results don't go your way.

Finally, with everybody's help and positive support, I am sure we can again look forward to another successful year ahead. Many thanks to you all for supporting the Club and making it what it is.

4 Treasurer's Report

Under the sad circumstances Jill had asked Roger to go over the accounts and answer any questions. The Auditor reported a small surplus which is remarkable considering the major expenditure during the last year.

Roger explained the £0 in 2012 for master points is because master points are now included in the EBU's Pay to Play fee. P2P has increased as our numbers have increased. Events costs are also included in this figure, which is why Housekeeping is high in 2011 and low this year. Another oddity is the insurance – £0 this year compared to £384 in 2011. This is simply because the payments for 2011 and 2012 were made during the previous financial year. The Chairman thanked Roger for auditing the accounts. The approval of the accounts was formally proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the meeting.

Francis wanted to formally record the Committee's thanks to Jill for her excellent work as Treasurer, this was seconded by Roger.

5 Club Captain's report

Ron reported this year has been a very memorable year for the Club. We won the Wessex League for 1st time in the Club's history. The Chiltern League - Michael retained the cup for us again. Wendy's Team were promoted from Division 3 to Division 2. Ron added that Norman's B Team was the only team to inflict defeat on the A Team. Our only disappointment was Andrew and Jane's team who were relegated, which is a shame. Hopefully they will come back up next year. Ron thanked the captains for their efforts and all the members who played for the club.

6 Elections

President	G Rayner
Vice Presidents	P Simmonds and J Squires
Chairman	C Jones
Secretary	G Weatherley
Treasurer	J Bennett
Club Captain	R Quainton

Committee M Allin (Membership Secretary)
Peter Finbow
Richard Ford
N Gascoyne
F Glassborow
I Lascelles
M Lucas
I Ridge

Auditor R Griffiths

7 Presentation of Trophies

The Chairman announced the competition winners for 2011. The trophies were presented by The President.

Open Individual	Ron Quainton
Handicap Individual	Ron Quainton
Open Pairs	Adrian Lambe and Ron Quainton
Handicap Pairs	Ron Quainton and Peter Russell*
Mixed Pairs	Olivia and Alan Woo*
Teams	Nigel Wilkes, Clive Keep, Mike Brown and John Slater.
Pead Plate	John Bannister, Beryl Game, Pauline Newport, Barbara Angelou.
Butler Individual	Ron Quainton and Peter Russell [joint winners]
Most Improved Monday Player	John Bannister
Most Improved Student	Isabel Ridge

* **NB** Due to an administrative error, the trophies for the Handicap Pairs and the Mixed Pairs competitions were incorrectly awarded at the AGM.

The winners of the Handicap Pairs 2011 were Elizabeth Yearling and Gordon Carroll. The winners of the Mixed Pairs 2011 were Debbie Roberts and Geoff Nicholas. The Committee congratulates the winners and apologises for any embarrassment caused.

8 Any Other Business

Prize Money

A survey of all members will be carried out in July to determine if these events will continue. The Chairman asked members for any comments. There were none.

Summer BBQ

The majority of members attending the meeting were indifferent to the club holding a social event during the summer.

Open Pairs

A small majority of the members who voted (10 for and 7 against), were in favour of rearranging May's heat of the Open Pairs. This was cancelled due to the AGM. Norman will look at diary dates – it is likely that two heats of the Competition will be held in one month.

Oven for the Kitchen

Edna Gillett asked if it is possible to put an oven in the kitchen. Home-made

sausage rolls are provided at the Senior's event; these are currently being heated in the microwave which spoils them. The Secretary advised the microwave is a combi-oven. The Chairman reported that the old oven had been removed due to the regulations and it isn't possible to install a new one.

Thanks from The President

Graham said we are fortunate the way this club has grown. It has been here 40 years and goes back to Edna's husband time. We are having a wonderful time under Colin's leadership. The President and the members warmly thanked the Chairman for all his hard work.

There was no other business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm.