

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 5 June 2005 @ West Midlands Bridge Club

Present: Jon Downing (Chairman), Nanette McWhirter (Vice-Chairman), Alan Pagett (Treasurer), Darren Evetts (General Secretary), John Birch (Membership Secretary), Beryl Latham (Admin Secretary) and 32 Members.

1. **Apologies** were received from John Pyner, Bob & Stephanie Galvin, John Robbins and Robin Ogg
2. **The minutes of the AGM held 6 June 2004** were circulated, agreed and signed as correct.
3. **Matters Arising** - None
4. **Treasurer's Report – Attached (Alan Pagett)**

Alan reported little change in the accounts with some notable exceptions:- Invitation Pairs income was down due to less entries; we hosted five inter-county matches; we paid for the evening meal of the Tollemache team.

The donations to St Mary's Hospice are greater than usual due to there being two Charity Swiss Teams events in the same year.

Alan thanked all the people he had worked with during his eleven years as Treasurer. He expressed particular thanks for John Birch and Bob Galvin for their hard work and support.

Jon thanked Alan for his work as Treasurer and the meeting echoed this thanks. Alan was presented with a gift as a token of the Association's thanks.

5. **Chairman's Report (Jon Downing)**

Jon said a few word in memory of John Collings. John was an internationally renowned bridge player who would be missed across the globe but particularly in Warwickshire. A tribute to John was published in the April 2005 EBU magazine, page 46.

Competition Report:-

Tollemache Final - congratulations to the Tollemache team of Michael Allen, Roger Bryant, David Jones, Mike Butler, Steve Green, Rob Helle, Peter Hetherington, Glyn Preece, Martin Jones, Gary Watson, Mike Leese and Steve Wood for coming second in the 2005 Tollemache Cup.

Invitation Pairs Results:-

- Premier – Winners: M Butler & M Northwood, Runners Up: J Robbins & D Kenward
- Birmingham Division I – Winners: A & H McBride, Runners Up: L Johnstone & J Wernick
- Birmingham Division II – Winners: A Mostafa & A Imam, Runners Up: B Holloway & J Wright
- Coventry Division I – Winners: D Foster & V Cooper, Runners Up: V Garrod & M Pyner

League Winners

- Division I – Moseley A (Cornelius)
- Division II – Sutton B (Wash)
- Division III – Moseley G (Heighway)
- Division IV – Moseley H (Lewis)

Handicap – Final between Franks & Heatherington

Goodman Cup – Won by Mike Leese, Steve Wood, Peter Heatherington, Adrian Knight, Glyn Preece, Chris Potter. The team will represent WCBA in the Pachabo.

Inter-County Leagues:-

Warwickshire's performance in the Dawes – 2nd (3rd Last Year), Porter = 4th (2nd Last Year), Markham 5th (4th Last Year).

6. Election of Officers for 2005/6

The following Officers/Committee for 2005/6 were proposed by Hylda Townsend and seconded by all:-

Chairman	Jon Downing	Vice-Chairman	TBA
Secretary	Darren Evetts	Treasurer	Leslie Reece
Admin Secretary	Beryl Latham	League Secretary	Leslie Reece
MasterPoints Secretary	Stephanie Galvin	Match Secretary/Publicity	John Robbins
Membership Secretary	John Birch	Tournament Secretary	Pip Whitehouse
Youth Officer	Steve Byrne		

Non-Representative Members (10 Max):-

Mike Allen, Dodo Gerogovic, Jane Hall, Barry Holloway, Morris Hughes, David Jones, Roy Moore, John Pyner, Norman Selwyn, Hylda Townsend, Nanette McWhirter, Nick Woosnam

7. Election of Honorary Auditor – Mr R Gavin was proposed by Jon Downing, seconded by all.

8. AOB

The question of no Vice-Chair being elected was raised. We would be canvassing further to find a vice-chair and any suggestions would be welcome.

Invitation Pairs – Any pairs wishing to be considered for the Invitation Pairs should let a member of the Council know. If there are any pairs that Clubs feel should be considered then please do let Council know. The selection process can only work if the selection committee know who wants to play.

The question of what WCBA pays Tournament Directors was raised and concern expressed that it seemed low. We currently pay £20 per session plus travel and any teas involved. The session rate is less than the lowest EBU rate. Council would discuss this further.

Council have discussed the possibility of increasing the membership subscription for 2006/7 from £2.50 to £3. It was felt that maybe an increase of 50p was not enough and it was agreed that subscriptions would be increased as proposed plus a possible increase by another 50p in 2007/8.

It was reported that the EBU was now a single entity known as EBU Limited. Due to this change we now have three shares (shares are issued depending on the size of membership. Less than 600 two shares, 600-1200 three shares and 1200+ 4 shares. There is a proposal being discussed to reduce EBU Shareholders to a regionally based allocation rather than a County based one. The benefits of this would enable the EBU to become recognised and eligible for Government funding. The schedule of four shareholder meetings a year would be reduced to one shareholder meeting plus a meeting for Secretaries and Membership Secretaries. This would represent a saving on travel expenses! The idea was not well received as it was felt we would lose direct representation.

Jon reported that the proposed national bridge centre in Kettering was progressing well with the Tollemache being the first competition to be held there in November 2005. The initial idea is to hold some non-seaside run competitions there to ascertain member's views of the centre. The centre has space for 100 tables and 700 cars with on site facilities including sports centres, bars with smoking and non-smoking areas. The centre would be a dual use facility hosting other non-bridge events. Initially there would be no onsite hotel but plans are to build an hundred bedroom one later if the scheme proves successful. There are other hotels nearby. There were plans to relocate the EBU headquarters there if the scheme proved a success.

9. The 2005 AGM will be held at West Midlands Bridge Club on 4 June 2006 @ 5.15pm.

D Evetts
June 2005