

WORCESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15TH MAY 2016 – CUTNALL GREEN MEMORIAL HALL

1. Apologies for absence

Sue Lane, Mel Downing, Heather Westcott, Jennifer Romer, Dick & Jane Rutter, Jane Morton, Nick & Steph Forward, David & Sarah Halford.

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

These had been on the website for the previous year.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's remarks

Eddy started with the major achievements of the year which were qualifying for the Tollemache Final and a team including 3 Worcestershire players winning the Silver Plate.

The mentoring scheme, which Roger Bowles was key in setting up, was going well and having started with a trial group has been expanded.

The County had lost a number of players in the past year including Roger.

We have also lost an affiliated bridge club as Halesowen Bridge Club is no longer affiliated to the EBU.

He finished by making some comments about behaviour and saying that players at all levels need to act as ambassadors of the competitive game and should behave in a manner appropriate to the ability of their opponents.

5. Presentation of Accounts

If you look down to the bottom of the income and expenditure report on the first page you can see that we made a profit of £7,943 against a budget of £5,342 which looks good. There are two reasons for this extra surplus. Firstly, we received monies from Midland Counties Congress being the accrued surplus on the cessation of Worcestershire's involvement in the event. Secondly we increased table money from £3 per person to £3.50, though this also covered the introduction of free tea, coffee etc. But the average number of tables fell slightly in all competitions during the year. So the net effect of the increase was only half of the expected £580.

As always the financial success is totally dependent upon the Malvern Congress which was located for the second year at the St Johns Sports Centre. Financially it yielded £2,200 profit plus £1,500 sponsorship which we received for the first time making it very profitable.

There was also a significant increase in monies raised through duplimating, with more clubs and teaching groups enjoying the benefits of pre-dealt hands where in a masochistic touch they can later see what they should have done, rather than what they did do.

The Balance Sheet shows that we have over £51,000 worth of cash available, most of which is invested in a Monmouthshire Building Society account. The interest rate on this account dropped to 1.05% on the 1st July 2015. This came as no surprise, and is still a reasonable return.

Before we move onto the budget for 2016/17 I would like to thank Ian Lineker for giving of his time and expertise in auditing the accounts. Ian always comes up with intelligent and perceptive comments.

On the back of the second page is the budget which shows a surplus income over expenditure of £3,634. The main reason for this drop in income over expenditure is mostly connected with the Malvern Congress. Bridge Overseas are now sponsoring us for the Sunday teams at £200 plus prize money vouchers totalling £200. We are also budgeting for increased costs for the weekend.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Barbara Griffiths and seconded by Joyce Skelton.

6. Own Venue Project

John Sansom gave a presentation on the status of the own venue project.

7. Appointment of officers and committee

Eddy Blackburn is starting his second year as Chairman. Dennis Loynes is happy to continue as Treasurer and Paul Hammond is happy to carry on as Secretary and as there were no other nominations they remain in post. John Sansom, Martin Gill & Joyce Skelton are standing down in rotation and John & Martin are seeking re-election. Joyce was thanked for her work on the Committee over the previous 3 years. The only nomination received was for Barbara Griffiths so she is elected onto the Committee unopposed.

8. Appointment of auditor

Ian Lineker was again thanked for his services and he has agreed to continue for another year.

9. Any other business

Sue Evans asked if County Night could be moved to Ombersley Memorial Hall, where Droitwich Bridge Club have recently moved to. Eddy said that we would discuss venues for all events including both Monday Nights and weekend events at the Committee Meeting on Thursday.

Steve Allerston asked if we had considered having Try Duplicate Sessions on County Night. There are a number of issues to be considered here. We struggle to get Club players to come to County Night so would we be able to attract less experienced players. Also these players may not want to play more than once a week and we would not want to compete with Clubs who already hold Try Duplicate sessions. Finally, if the main section is 10 or more tables we would struggle to find room for a Try Duplicate section at the current venue.

10. Presentation of the trophies

Trophies were then presented.