

# MINUTES OF THE A.G.M OF SURREY COUNTY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Ripley Village Hall

## APOLOGIES:

51 members were present. Apologies were received from Richard Millard

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS YEAR

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were agreed. Proposed by Julia Brough and seconded by Steve Bourton.

## MATTERS ARISING

There were none

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - Graham Osborne

Surrey has the largest membership within the EBU, and in Richmond and Wimbledon has had the two largest clubs in the country as measured by player sessions for several years.

I am pleased to say that a third Surrey club, Bookham Afternoon Bridge club has sneaked into the top 50 this year.

However, these clubs are not typical of our affiliated clubs. More typical is Effingham Bridge Club which Shirley Pritchard and I visited last week on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The club was on the verge of closing a few years ago but is now flourishing following a sustained effort to increase and broaden its membership. I hope both the county and its clubs can learn from each other's experiences. I am pleased to say that the county is looking to further coordination, liaison and marketing with adjoining counties and work with Sussex has already started.

Surrey players continued to feature in representative events and I would like to highlight the performance of Marietta Andree and Janet Cahm who came fourth in the ladies trials and qualified to play in the EBU team in the Lady Milne. I would also like to mention Selsdon who qualified to play in the National Final of the Garden Cities.

Sadly we have lost a number of well-known figures with the county bridge scene during the year. Elizabeth Phillips was one of the most successful players the county has seen and still played to a good standard into her nineties. Peter Bentley passed away after a long illness but remained on the committee into 2015, and his wife Detta, also a good player died a few weeks later.

I would also like to pay tribute to the committee members standing down this year. George Gardiner was on the committee for many years, and Peggy Griffin served in many roles, but most recently as Match secretary. It is also appropriate to thank Mac Derwig, who has served his five years as Chairman.

Mac originally stepped in at short notice but has done a tremendous job.

He will be a hard act to follow, but I think, subject to your approval in a few minutes time, that we have in Trevor Hobson a worthy successor. I would also like to wish my successor, as president, Charles Chisnall good luck

The association places great importance on trying to generate more interest in bridge in the younger generation. I mentioned last year our attempts to form a bridge club within Surrey University and I pleased to say those efforts have been successful. The association has funded a teacher and up to three tables having been playing. The majority are first year s so we are hoping that recruitment from a fresh intake this autumn will consolidate the position of the club.

Each year the President chooses a charity to be supported by the Surrey Simultaneous pairs in January. This year I was very pleased to choose the Meath Epilepsy Centre in Godalming that received £2500. They were very pleased with the donation and I was privileged to recently visit the trust to see they work they do. I would like to thank all the players and clubs that contribute each year

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2015

Mike Clements presented the audited accounts. There was a deficit of £3,119 which, as a policy decision had been planned and met from reserves. The deficit has increased over the past few years so that the accumulated deficit for the past 5 years is £10,000. Although we were in receipt of a

legacy of £1000 last year, the income from the Green Point event was down by half this year. There were no questions on the accounts and their acceptance was proposed by Jeffrey Allerton and seconded by Mac Derwig.

#### PROPOSAL TO RAISE P2P

From the outset of P2P in 2010 Surrey have set a zero rate. However with increasing deficits it is felt timely to introduce a rate of 2p from April 2016. This would raise approx £4000 p.a. compared with the £7,000 p.a. which used to be raised from subscriptions. Steve Bourton asked why an increase was needed when the reserves are still at £30,000. Mike said that the reserves may well be less by next April, and there are the costs of £1,000 for the set up of bridge at Surrey University to be considered. The proposal was carried with two votes against.

#### APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR

Thomas Lunqvist was appointed as the auditor for the coming year.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was agreed as follows:

*President:* Charles Chisnall  
*Chairman:* Trevor Hobson  
*Secretary:* Gail Norman  
*Treasurer:* Mike Clements  
*Match Secretary:* Jeffrey Allerton  
*Competition Secretary:* Frances Trebble  
*Communications Officer:* Douglas Wright

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the committee.

Jill Cook  
Julia Brough (Web Manager)  
Bomi Kavarana (County Youth Officer)  
Richard Millard  
Steve Foster  
Shirley Pritchard  
Mac Derwig

#### CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Jeffrey Allerton proposed some changes to the constitution details of which are shown below. They have been agreed by the EBU. The amended version can be seen on the county website.

##### **Summary of Proposed Changes to Constitution of Surrey County Bridge Association**

Clause 1 (Title). Added in parentheses definitions of the abbreviations used later in the text.

Clause 2 (Objects). Slight amendment to clarify the Association's objects, which now include the word 'development'.

Clause 6. (Affiliated Clubs) Amendments to clarify that affiliated clubs need to be in the Surrey area.

Clause 8 (Committee). Allows more flexibility in the number of committee members (currently there is a requirement to have exactly eighteen people!); removing the absolute requirement for certain non-core Officers of the Association; and clarifying that a former Chairman may remain on the Committee even after serving the maximum of five consecutive years as Chairman.

Clause 10 (Sub-committees). Clarified to confirm that Sub-committee members do not have to be members of the main Committee.

Clause 12. (Committee meetings). Quorum for committee meetings defined in the event of a smaller number of committee members.

Clause 13 (Committee's powers). Wording clarified to authorise the Committee to expend funds as long as such expenditure is consistent with the Association's objects.

Clause 14. (Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge) Clarified to explain that the Association will use EBU interpretations of the WBF Laws.

Clause 18. Deadline for holding the AGM extended by one month to the end of July (four months

after the financial year-end). This allows more time for the Treasurer and Auditor of the year-end accounts, whilst gives more flexibility on the timing of the AGM.

Clause 18(c) Reworded to clarify the term “following year” and the timing of any change to the County Pay-to-Play Rate.

Clause 18(d). Expanded to explain the procedure in the event that no Auditor is appointed at the AGM or if the Auditor resigns mid-year.

Clause 19. Amended to explain that notice of forthcoming AGMs will be given in the County News section of the EBU magazine, to replace the current Constitution’s “printed in the yearly competitions booklet and sent to all members at the start of each playing season”. This clause is also expanded to clarify the procedures in advance of the AGM.

These changes were proposed by Frances Hinden and seconded by Sue Osborne and approved unanimously.

Jeffrey was thanked for his hard work on these amendments.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Charles Chisnall asked if everyone present could encourage fellow members to complete the member’s survey on the website. He said there would be a prize draw for completed surveys.

Bomi Kavarana asked if anyone knew a teacher who could replace the current teacher from Claremont Fancourt school who was retiring after 15 years.

The meeting closed at 16.55.