

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Abingdon Community Centre at 7.10 pm, on Tuesday March 3rd 2020.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following members:

Sarah Alden, Christine Ewing, Alan Morton, Tony Hughe, Viv Weekes and Ruth and Kevin Carter.

2. Minutes of Previous AGM (5TH March 2019).

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without comment. Acceptance was proposed by Karen Hughes and seconded by Keith Sadler.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chairman's Report.

We have had a steadying of table numbers this year. There has been a slight drop in table numbers, with the notable exception of teams, on a Tuesday, though there has been an increase in the number of tables on a Wednesday morning. Our membership numbers have remained stable, and at the moment, we have 148 members. Sadly, we have lost four members, or ex members in the last year following the deaths of Patricia Bagrie, Alan Parker, Chris Lloyd and John Clifford.

In 2004 the committee decided to raise table money to £1.50 and this was raised to £2.00 in 2010. We raised this to £2:50 in 2014. I am delighted to be able to inform you that the committee has decided to keep table money at £2:50 for members and £3.50 for visitors in the next year. The annual fee is held at £10.00. However there has been an increase in the cost of the hall from £11 to £15 an hour from January so we may have to increase in the future.

We have continued to enter three teams in the Wessex League. Last year, our A team continued its yo-yo and won Division 2 to go up to Division 1. Their status is in a little doubt as they have two games remaining against two strong teams. Our B team have done well this season and are to continue in Division 2 next season. Our C team is in Division 3 and are currently third, though it seems very unlikely that they will get promoted to Division 2. This year the OBA have introduced a daytime league of four players. We have three teams in these leagues. Currently one is either top or close to top in one division, and another is top of a division and the third not so strong.

We all thoroughly enjoy our annual match against Wallingford for the Len Salmon trophy and this year, Wallingford comprehensively beat us winning all three teams of eight matches even though the teams were very similar to last year when we won all three! We very much hope that this will continue in the future.

It's thank you time! Your committee have worked hard over the past year. We have met on five occasions and have steered the club throughout the year. I would like to thank the committee for their hard work over the year. I would particularly like to offer our thanks to David, who as many of you know, has moved to near Cirencester. He is still playing once a month and also in the A team. Thanks to him for all the sterling work that has done over the years which rightly led him to being given the honour of life membership some years ago. All the committee members have fulfilled their role extremely well and we are grateful to all of them. Thanks also to the Wessex League captains, Gordon and Tony and to Gordon for yet again organising the Len Salmon. Thanks too to Richard for being our auditor again and all those members who direct for us and to Brian for scoring most weeks. I would also like to thank Karen and Peter for duplimating for us on a monthly basis. I would also like to thank the backroom women who wash the tea towels and generally clear up. Also to Jane for continuing to make sure that we have milk each week.

Finally, I would like to thank John for being a fine secretary over the past three years.

There were no comments on the Chairman's Report.

5. Treasurer's Report.

You will note that the accounts are laid out in the usual with explanatory notes on the back.

Over the financial year income increased by £1081(9%). This was largely due to an increase in table money from March. Membership remained virtually static (Dec2018 = 146, Dec 2019 = 147) and the overall number of players dropped slightly.

However, expenditure rose by £1533 (14%) over the year, mainly as a result of an increase in hall rental from January; the hourly rate increased from £11 to £15. Also we hosted the Len Salmon Trophy. Consequently our surplus has fallen from £840 in 2018 to £389 in 2019. This means that our overall funds are now £5196. While this is no immediate concern, the trend needs to be monitored carefully, especially if a substantial sum is required to cover large expenditures in the future. Given this, the Committee recommends that there be no increase in either table money or subscriptions for 2020.

There were no comments on the Treasurer's Report or the 2019 accounts. Keith thanked Ruth, in her absence for preparing the accounts and serving as treasurer for the past three years.

6. Presentation of Trophies.

The following trophies were presented to the members of the club who were successful in 2019.

Open Pairs – Jean Squires and Norman Gascoyne

Handicap Pairs (Gordon Williams Cup) – Jean Squires and Norman Gascoyne

Individual – Mike Brown

Teams – John Briggs, Peter Litchfield, Tony Nolan and Nigel Wilkes

Handicap Teams – Carol Wadsworth, John Rowe, Kevin Carter and Mike Hosking

Albert Large Cup (Mixed Pairs) – Olivia and Alan Woo

Autumn Cup – Carol Wadsworth and Mike Hosking

Simpson Trophy – Debbie Roberts and Peter Russell

Spring Cup (played Feb. 2020) – Julie Anderson and Matt Wilkinson

7. Election of Officers and Committee.

There were no nominations for Chairman, so Keith Sadler will remain in the chair pro tem. Peter Litchfield will become Secretary, Kevin Carter will become Treasurer with Ruth retaining the cashier element of her role. Dave Walton, John Edwards and Pauline Howard will be leaving the Committee. New members will be Kay Hunneyball, Karen Hughes, Graham Simpson and Sue Evangelista. The new Committee was ratified

8. Charitable Donations.

A total of £1,048 was donated to three charities: Flexicare, Maggie's Centre and the Footsteps Foundation. In addition £200 was donated to the Centre. The remaining monies being divided equally between Flexicare, Maggie's Centre and the Footsteps Foundation.

9. Any Other Business.

Gordon Carroll raised the issue of Coronavirus and what, if anything, the Club should do about it. The EBU have suggested the use of hand sanitisers and E/W retaining the same bidding boxes. Microwaving the cards was suggested, but is not very practical. It was felt that the main points were good hygiene, not touching your mouth and the cards and not coming to the Club with a cold. These precautions were sensible at any time and were endorsed by Dr. Wilkinson.

Ian van Maanen Proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for the efforts during the last year.

The meeting closed at 7.35 and was followed by Bridge as normal.

John Edwards, Secretary Abingdon Duplicate Bridge Club.