

## **MINUTES OF BARROW BRIDGE CLUB AGM**

**Wednesday 11th March 2026 6.30 pm in the club.**

### **1. PRESENT**

Chris W (President and Chair of meeting) Sharon (Chair of BBC), Debbie (treasurer), Pat (secretary and minutes).

Dorothy, Hazel, Steve, Marj, Norma, John M, Joyce, Jean, Stan, Theta, Charlotte, Carole (Committee) and Clare (Committee).

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Julie, Wendy, Colin and Julie H, Stuart, Sarah, Eric P, Anne, Kay, Dave, Trevor, Chris H, John R, Eileen, Joan (Committee) and Margaret (Committee).

### **3. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS**

Chris commented on what she believed to be our 81st AGM, and reaching such a milestone is a testament to the resilience of our community, especially given the challenges facing social clubs today. The dedication of a few individuals is clearly the engine that keeps our club running. Without them, we wouldn't have a club.

Chris was happy to report no current members have died this year. However, we have lost a few past regular players namely Audrey Vince, Betty Grant and June Nairn as well as an online player, Rod Light. A minute's silence was held in remembrance.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM**

Proposed as an accurate record by Carole, seconded by Clare. A signed copy is on the noticeboard and a copy is available on the website.

### **5. CHAIRS REPORT**

Sharon thanked those who had taken the time out to attend the AGM. Members' support and contribution helps to shape the current position of our club and its future, as we all need to think about our longer term viability. She asked everyone to question and contribute ideas and support to how we promote the club. Do we have the right structure? Could we encourage members to become involved in the day to day running of the club, to become Committee members, could we use the club better by offering other activities etc? Please share any ideas with any member of the Committee at any time and they will be considered.

Sharon reminded us of some of the activities and work we have done this last year. During April we held a quiz night organised by Steve to support our youngest club member Charlotte to undertake an event called the Morocco challenge. The quiz raised £600 thanks to the generosity of our members

In an attempt to recruit new learners we ran an event called Café Bridge in September. This involved members of the club playing bridge at different cafes, shops and venues in Barrow and Ulverston, and talking to people as they passed to try to stimulate interest in the game. Some venues were more successful than others.

We also held an open day. A brochure was produced and circulated. The Evening Mail did a spread on the event. This was well attended with a number of people showing interest. Enough people were recruited to run lessons again, thanks to Chris and Margaret. A reminder if any members want to brush up their skills they are always welcome to attend any of the lessons at any time, the topic is published weekly, and free to existing members.

Afternoon bridge sessions, run by Joan and Marj, sometimes include lunches like fish and chips, or pie and peas etc.. Members enjoy this and it adds a new dimension to the sessions. The Christmas party had a slightly different twist this year when we served a hot buffet. Many compliments were received, and thanks to the organisers who were also the chefs. Any leftovers from these events are shared with Barrow Homeless Society.

In October we hosted our annual game against Kendal, organised by Trevor. There was a lovely atmosphere and players of all levels took part. We put on a good spread and had a great afternoon made better by the fact that we actually won.

Our tenants continue to rent our flat. They seem happy and we hope they continue to be so. Minor works have been undertaken on the building for example the fascia boards, and United Utilities have been in to see if they can find out why the cellar is leaking. This is a problem we will need to address. We invested in a racing green door which enhances the building.

Sharon ended with a quote by Oscar Wilde "Old Bridge players never die; they just lose their finesse."

## **6. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Currently we have 63 members, 5 non local, and includes 9 local members don't/hardly play, 5 local players and 6 away players play online only, 1 more local player is seeking an online partner. Those local who are playing online because they are unable to play in the club is 4 or 5. 30 members play in the club only, 12 play both. Without the online play our actively playing membership therefore would be down to around 42. We unfortunately face consistently and gradually reducing numbers despite efforts to recruit. We have welcomed a number of visitors this year.

Pat shared more general Committee activity on top of that already raised. Celia resigned as she left the area, but we didn't seek a replacement as we feel 8 committee members for a group of 60 should be enough. The TD credit/honoraria system was revised, not for financial reasons but to be fair to all, and those affected unanimously agreed we should end any form of payment or credit, as we all give our time freely to support the club.

The Tuesday night online merge with Kendal took a lot of time to organise. Although it is now a session guaranteed to go ahead with a number of tables and a better Duplicate Bridge experience, we have unfortunately lost some of our players who find the session too long.

We had equipment issues with both the Duplimate (dealing) and Bridgemates developing serious faults, with each we thought we would need to pay several thousands to replace but in both cases Chris and Trevor W came to the rescue and managed to repair them.

Guidance re visitors' admin, robots etc. developed.

Constitution revision is needed next time for a number of items noted and proposals will come out prior to the next meeting.

## **7. TREASURERS REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.**

Debbie presented her accounts for the year and invited questions, the simplified version was copied for the discussion, and the more complex one required as a limited company will be placed on the noticeboard. Reserves have increased, due to a number of factors including some one off payments in, less expenses on the flat and building etc. Because of the latter, we will be due to pay income tax on the rental receipts this year. It was confirmed the rent has been increased slightly since February. Although relatively cheap it is worth keeping it low to retain our excellent tenant.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Clare and seconded by Steve.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Sharon, Debbie and Pat had agreed to continue in their roles and had been nominated and seconded as required in advance. They were unanimously reelected.

## **9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

Clare was due for reelection as she has now served her 3 year term. She has agreed to continue and had been nominated and seconded as required in advance. She was reelected unanimously.

Dorothy asked if she could address the meeting and expressed her appreciation of the work done for the Club, she particularly mentioned Sharon and Pat who did a considerable amount of work despite personal challenges. Thank you Dorothy.

## **10. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES**

These were presented by Charlotte, our youngest member as follows (photos on website, thanks Clare).

President's Trophy - Joan and Marj

Colin Woods Trophy - Betty and Theta

Alex Brown Trophy - Eric and Theta

W Thomson Individual - Carole and Wendy (draw)

Meg Cater Shield - Joan and Hazel

J Borrell Handicap - Norma and Barbara

Anniversary Trophy - Joyce and Jean

J Poole Trophy - Hazel and Chris W

Xmas Handicap Trophy - John P and Jean

## **11. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Sharon announced that it had been agreed by the Committee this year to present Life Membership to someone who has been supporting the club over a very long period and who does a considerable amount of work quietly and in the background. Carole was the worthy recipient who shared her surprise and thanks.

The meeting was followed by refreshments and a relaxed game of bridge for 3 tables, won by Pat and Chris.