

Bracknell Bridge League
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held
on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 14 Luckley Wood

Present Committee: Bill Barclay (BB) Chair (Bracknell Forest)
Joyce Baldock (JB) Treasurer (Aerospace)
Dave Green (DG) Fixture Secretary (Ascot)
Ian Adnams (IA) Secretary (Finchampstead)
Dave Lee (DL) Aerospace
Alan Brown (AB) Yateley

Club Representatives: Amanda O'Neill (Bracknell Forest), Alan Coales (Camberley).

Voting Rights: (Ascot)	Dave Green	2 votes
(Bracknell Forest)	Amanda O'Neill	2 votes
All others		1 vote

1. **Apologies** were received from : David Pinder (DP) Camberley, John Fairhurst (Lily), Chris Hopkins (Woodley), Dave Calcutt (Ascot), Pennie McKenzie (Yateley).
2. **The Chairman** welcomed representatives to the meeting and explained the voting rights.
3. **Minutes of the 2017 meeting** after a correction on item 10 (DL not DG) were accepted and signed. (JB/AB)
4. **Matters Arising** BB advised that there were two matters from the previous AGM. First, a suggestion had been made by Andy Kirk (Bracknell Forest) to base handicaps for the Pivot Knockout event on players' NGS standings. Subsequently, following some considerable work by David Pinder, a revised handicap system whereby a player's handicap was derived from his or her NGS standing at the start of the season was implemented. Its performance had been reviewed at the end of the season and the initial indications were that it was working well – but it would be prudent to continue to gather data on its performance over the next two to three seasons. AB stated that (from memory) historically no Division 1 team had won the cup so the previous system may have favoured the lower ranked teams. DL pointed out that 20 years ago there had been 2 separate events The Pivot Cup and the Handicap Cup but due to dwindling support the 2 had merged. The second matter arising related to a request that the Web Site display results of both the league and the knockout cup. BB advised that that the League results were now all on the website and automatically linked through from the EBU website. AO congratulated the Committee on the new website and BB confirmed that this would be passed on to Ian Lewis who created the website on our behalf.
5. **The Secretary** had received nothing to report.
6. **The Treasurer** tabled a copy of the Accounts for 2017-2018 and pointed out a correction to the current liabilities. The accounts show a loss for the year of £150.50, mainly for costs incurred at the EOSP, and explained that actions were in hand to achieve a break even status this year, and that we had comfortable reserves. She proposed that the current fees of League Teams £10 per team, Pivot Cup £7 per team and EOSP £3 per player remain for the coming season (JB/DG). She then proposed that the Accounts be adopted and also that we remain licensed by the EBU – carried unanimously. AO asked what the difference was between being licensed and being affiliated, JB explained that Leagues are licensed and Clubs are

affiliated. AO suggested that Bracknell Forest may be happy to host the EOSP events and felt that other Clubs should also be given the opportunity to do so – this to be discussed at Committee.

7. **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts** – Adrian Smith – unanimously accepted (JB/DG)
8. **The Fixtures/Results Secretary** – reported that the season is all signed off and there had been very few problems encountered. BB praised DG for the unseen work done in setting up the Leagues for the season.
9. **Pivot Cup Secretary** - reported that the Pivot Cup rules had been updated to accommodate the new handicap system. Out of 14 initial entries 3 had withdrawn resulting in one team reaching the semi finals without actually playing a match. Further investigation showed that some of the teams had withdrawn because they were unable to meet the target dates and he suggested a slightly more lenient approach to the timescales next season. He also felt it would be beneficial to emphasise that teams do not have to be made up of members of the same club, and highlight that it is the winners' responsibility to enter the results. Congratulations to Williams who beat Sheppard in the final.
10. **Survey results and recommendations** – 2 surveys were sent out 1 for players who have played in the league and 1 for players who had not. 67 responses were received, 51 from current players and 16 not. The general trend is that most people are happy with the length and dates of the season. 75% were happy with the number of matches and 20% would not mind seeing them reduced. The rules currently allow for matches to be played at a mutually agreed date and time, so, with agreement, they can be played at any time of any day of the week. If agreement cannot be reached then the suggested evening slot would take precedence. The overall trend of the League shrinking may well continue but the Committee has plans to try and generate more participants. AO suggested that teams who struggle to meet the number of fixtures may benefit from having a larger pool of players to pick from, and that BBL should make its' changes clear when sending out the entry invitations. There are 2 teams who struggle to provide a home venue and rely on the goodwill of others to assist, this should be encouraged by all who can help. In summary, the survey results show that no significant changes need to be made. JB proposed a vote of thanks to BB for all his hard work in producing the survey and collating the results.
11. **Election of Officers** With no nominations received from the floor BB proposed that the current Committee of
Bill Barclay (Chair)
Ian Adnams (Secretary)
Joyce Baldock (Treasurer)
Dave Green (Fixtures & Results Secretary)
Dave Lee (Pivot Cup Secretary)
David Pinder
Alan Brown
be re-elected en-bloc – (AC/AO) carried unanimously.
12. **Any other business** AO thanked the Committee for coordinating the League and the Pivot. Everyone thanked Bill and Elizabeth for their hospitality.

The date of the 2019 AGM will be arranged later in the season for end of April/beginning of May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

