

Bracknell Bridge League
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held
on Thursday 25th April 2019 at 75 Brackendale Road

Present Committee: Joyce Baldock (JB) Treasurer (Aerospace)
Dave Green (DG) Fixture Secretary (Ascot)
Ian Adnams (IA) Secretary (Finchampstead)
Dave Lee (DL) Aerospace
Alan Brown (AB) Yateley
David Pinder (DP) Camberley

Club Representatives: Keith Sheppard (Bracknell Forest), John Fairhurst (Lilly), and Judy Douch (Yateley)

Voting Rights: (Ascot)	Dave Green	2 votes
(Bracknell Forest)	Keith Sheppard	2 votes
All others		1 vote

1. **Apologies** were received from: Chris Hopkins (Woodley) and Bill Barclay (Bracknell Forest).
2. **The Chairman** in the absence of BB DL welcomed representatives to the meeting and explained the voting rights. He announced that BB had now moved away and had resigned from the Committee, thanks were noted for all his hard work whilst in tenure. Thanks were also passed to AB for hosting the meeting.
3. **Minutes of the 2018 meeting** were accepted and signed. (JB/DP)
4. **Matters Arising** there were no matters arising that were not covered in the Agenda.
5. **The Secretary** had received nothing to report.
6. **The Treasurer** tabled a copy of the Accounts for 2018-2019. The accounts show a small loss for the year of £22.06, primarily due to the fact that the EBU are now charging for the Handicap event. As the cost cutting procedures introduced last year appear successful and we still hold 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. She then proposed that the Accounts be approved (JB/AB) and adopted and also that we remain licensed by the EBU – carried unanimously.
7. **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts** – Adrian Smith – unanimously accepted (JB/DG)
8. **The Fixtures/Results Secretary** – thanked all for getting the matches played within the time scale. Some Captains had failed to list their players and reminders had to be sent. He proposed that all Captains should be notified at the start of next season that they can personally change any match dates on LMS without reference to the Committee. The playing weeks will be sent out ahead of the invitations to allow people to arrange their diaries – these are for guidance and not set in stone. KS noted a slight niggle with the fact that LMS did not automatically convert IMP's to VP's - DG had raised this with the EBU who stated that as not all league play the same number of boards in a match the process could not be automated. The trial of offering afternoons or weekends for matches had been favourably received by some teams and would be continued - willing teams will be shown on the 'Contacts List' for next season. KS asked if it were permissible for teams to change their status (e.g. from 'A' to 'C') – yes they can. DL congratulated Bracknell Forest on being champions in both Division 1 & Division 2 this season.
9. **Pivot Cup Secretary** - 13 teams entered this year, one down on last year but with no drop outs – hopefully the new flexibility on playing dates has helped in this area. Again teams from the higher divisions tended to get knocked out early. The handicap system was changed 2 years ago with an annual audit carried out by DP to assess the fairness of the system. To date

not all teams have provided so this years audit is still to be completed. It is recognised that there is little incentive to do this if you have lost and there are no master points on offer, but, for audit purposes, please ask all teams to provide this. KS feels that the new handicap system is a vast improvement and DL thanked Bracknell Forest for raising the issue in the first place. Relaxing the rules to allow players from different clubs to form a team had also been introduced recently, although to date no teams appear to have made use of this so it is not clear if it benefits the competition. Congratulations to Finchampstead who beat Woodley in the final this year.

10. **Election of Officers** With no nominations received from the floor IA proposed that the current Committee of

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 and that DL be appointed as Chair – carried unanimously.

11. **Relaxing of the rule allowing players from different clubs to play for different teams** has been trialled for year and was primarily introduced with a view ease any difficulties teams may have in fielding a four, so encouraging more teams to enter and keep the League well populated. Despite a couple of issues, the committee recommend that it be adopted into the Rules which will be fully clarified in due course.

A wide range of opinions on the change were expressed by representatives of the clubs present.

JF (Lilly) said he struggled with this concept and does not feel it is right, adding that other leagues generally do not allow players to play for more than one team.

DG (Ascot) said they could not support the number of team entries without such an approach and feels that clubs should be able to source players from within their own membership.

DP (Camberley) said he was against any restrictions

All agreed that the approach is open to possible abuse

All agreed that players must be a member of both clubs to play for both teams.

The committee will visit these issues at their next meeting.

12. **Rotation of EOSP day** as this event is always held on a Thursday Camberley feel that, as this is one of their club nights, they are always at a disadvantage and asked if it were possible to rotate the days. Bracknell Forest are keen to trial it on their Monday club night and other clubs may also be able to do so. Agreed that Bracknell Forest will host in 2020, and work with the League in arranging bookings, finance etc.

13. **Any other business** DG reported that League numbers are still quite low and need boosting. Woodley conveyed their thanks to the committee for all the work carried out throughout the season. JF queried whether the quality the new website would be adversely affected with the departure of BB, who was instrumental in setting it up. The committee view was that the current webmaster, Ian Lewis, will still be in place and are therefore confident that the high standard will be maintained.

14. **The date of the 2020 AGM** will be arranged later in the season for end of April/beginning of May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.12pm