

BEWDLEY BRIDGE CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 30 JUNE 2021

1a. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Richard Greenwood, Barry Menheneott, Trish Mann, Lorna Fellows and Dorothy Robinson.

1b. Lynne Craig - In Memoriam

David Halford (Club Chairman) reported the very sad news that Lynne Craig had died the day before the meeting. Lynne had been a club member for many years and was a very generous person in addition to being a fine player. The meeting paid its due respects to Lynne.

1b. Format of the Meeting

David expressed his thanks to Eileen Oakley (Club Secretary) for her work in enabling the meeting to be held using Zoom and his thanks to Sue Deakin (Club Membership Secretary) for her work in helping to compile and present the agenda.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on 15 May 2019

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising From 2019 Annual General Meeting

No matters were raised by Club Members.

4. Report of Club Chairman - General

David presented his annual report to the meeting.

Section 1 described the journey taken by the club to develop online bridge. David thanked all club members for their contributions to making online bridge a great success. He also thanked Alan Booth for launching online bridge in April 2020, Eileen for co-ordinating morning social bridge, and Richard Greenwood and Eileen for developing RealBridge as the online platform for the club.

Section 2 discussed bridge development, provision of Friday morning bridge tuition and the establishment of the Monday afternoon session as gentle bridge.

Section 3 discussed club management and administration. David thanked Bob Law (Club Treasurer) for transforming club financial management, Alan Booth for improving club communications and Sue Deakin for improving the club website and member services. He also thanked all of the club members who have kept the club thriving. Eileen expressed her personal thanks to every club member who had assisted with bridge teaching and playing with improvers. All of these contributions are greatly appreciated.

Section 4 showed showed the key performance indicators - record number of members, record table numbers across multiple playing sessions and more bridge available and played than at any time in club history.

Section 5 paid tribute to the immeasurable contribution made by Richard Greenwood, who has announced his intention to resign from the Club Committee following the Annual General Meeting. Members thanked Richard for all of his services to the club both in terms of delivering the club modernisation programme and providing bridge tuition.

Section 6 summarised the conclusions from the report. Club Members **AGREED** the conclusions from the report which were:-

- The club has continued to prosper despite the most challenging year in its history with no Face To Face Bridge played;
- The club has invested heavily in the development of online bridge and in that respect is the most successful bridge club in Worcestershire;
- Online bridge has proved to be extremely successful and the recent Member Consultation Exercise has shown that members are very keen that online bridge continues into a future that remains uncertain;
- There are significant decisions that lie ahead for the club around potential resumption of Face To Face Bridge;
- Club finances and management capacity is strong;
- The club has a superb, active membership base and it is that energy that drives the Club Committee forward, continuing to strive to create the best possible bridge offer in very uncertain times.

5. Report of Club Treasurer - Financial Statements at 31 March 2021

Bob submitted both a covering report and the financial statements themselves.

Bob expressed his thanks to John Neale (Past Treasurer) for handing over excellent financial records and commented that John's recent death brought an end to over twenty five years of wonderful service to the club. He also expressed his thanks to Jane Somervell for auditing the financial statements for both 2020 and 2021 in difficult circumstances.

The principal conclusions from the report are that:-

- A small surplus was generated during the year;
- The club bank balance is satisfactory;
- The club owns significant capital assets in the form of bridge equipment.

Club Members **AGREED** to endorse both sections of the report.

6. Election of Committee and Officers, 2021/22

David advised the meeting that all current Officers and Committee Members are willing to continue to serve the club for the 2021/22 club year. He expressed his gratitude for the support provided by all members of the Committee during the year. Club Members **RESOLVED** that the current members of the Committee should be re-elected to serve during the 2021/22 club year.

Members also **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendation that the Club Chairman and Club Secretary be authorised to co-opt such additional Committee members as may be required given the extensive workload

of the year. Subsequent to this resolution, David approached Jonathan Price who expressed his willingness to join the Committee and was duly co-opted.

7. Report of Club Chairman - Resumption of Face To Face Bridge (F2FB) and Club Relocation

David submitted a report which was set in the context of the recent Member Consultation Exercise (MCE). A significant conclusion from the MCE was that members expressed a clear preference for continuing to stage both the **MONDAY AFTERNOON** and **THURSDAY EVENING** sessions as **ONLINE BRIDGE**.

David reported that the results from the MCE were more nuanced in respect of **WEDNESDAY EVENING** sessions but that approximately 60% of members expressed a preference for these sessions remaining online. Some members expressed a preference for a return to F2FB. In the immediate term Wednesday evening sessions will be staged **ONLINE** until at least 29 September 2021 in line with membership subscriptions for the period from 1 April to 30 September 2021.

A further possibility, not fully covered in the report, would be to commence a **F2FB AFTERNOON** if circumstances permitted at a venue as yet unidentified.

David pointed out that he and the Committee need to be satisfied that the club has the managerial capacity to resume F2FB to an acceptable standard. Additional support would be essential and a clear plan needs to be set in place.

It was **AGREED** that decisions around the future of **WEDNESDAY EVENING** sessions were complex and that further consultation with club members was required, particularly if the Government announces the discontinuation of social distancing and sanitary requirements in the near future.

It was also **AGREED** that members would be consulted to ascertain the possible interest in establishing an **AFTERNOON F2FB** session on a day and at a venue to be identified.

Club Members **NOTED** the report and **ENDORSED** the recommendation to authorise that the Club Chairman and Club Secretary can co-opt additional Committee members as required given the complex issues that would face the club in the event of a resumption of F2FB.

8. Club Trophies

Members were requested to **NOTE** the following successes for members in club trophies for 2019/20 and 2020/21 and that arrangements for the award of these trophies will be made when circumstances allow.

2019/20:-

- a) Club Shield – Richard Greenwood and Stuart Norgrove;
- b) Myra Hunter Cup – Richard Greenwood and Stuart Norgrove;
- c) Handicap Trophy – Robin Mumphreys and David Holdsworth;
- d) Teams Trophy – Jonathan Price, Martin Griffiths, Steve Brown and Derek Moses;
- e) Packwood Family Trophy - Rachel Ward.

2020/21:-

- a) Club Shield – David Brown and Rachel Ward;
- b) Myra Hunter Cup – Sarah Halford and David Halford;
- c) Handicap Trophy – Barry Menheneott and John O’Driscoll;
- d) Teams Trophy – David Brown, Rachel Ward, Bill Somers and David Arbuthnott;
- e) Packwood Family Trophy - Christine Greatbatch.

9. **Any Other Business**

No items were raised.