

Briter Bridge Club 2

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 27th September 2022

at 6.30pm at Parklangleley Club

Draft Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

The meeting was attended by 25 members: Richard Ockenden, Irene Ockenden, Jenny Davis, Diana Letchford, Sheila Tutt, Andrea Hixson, Joan Evans, Angela Hughes, Pauline Boatwright, Susan Lee, Tris Barker, Walter Million, Margaret Styles, Nga Lim, Julia Booth-Brockbanks, Janis Fancett, Suzanne Foster, Sue Langley, Anthony Perkins, Jenny Salisbury, Tim Burrell, Ann Close, Colin Blount, Stuart Bell, Janet Bell.

Apologies were received from 12 members: Jan Titcombe, Luke Titcombe, Maggie McDowall, Kate Mitchell, Susan Hughes, Sheila Weymouth, Reidun Stockwell, Derek Chadwick, Duncan Bell, Pat Carter, Caroline Ashcroft, Pat Hunt

Minutes and Matters Arising from AGM 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

2. Chairman's Report

Tim presented his report, highlighting the challenges the club has faced since face to face play has resumed. We have not been covering our weekly costs with the average of 4 to 5 tables in the afternoon and 2 to 3 in the evening. Tim thanked Janet for her efforts to keep the evening sessions running by contacting regular members each week and arranging pairings, where appropriate. We need more members to ensure our long term sustainability. Tim and Colin have started running trial tuition sessions for beginners/improvers on Tuesday mornings at 11am, attracting about seven people per session and they are going well. The committee considered the issue of refreshments in the room, at a recent meeting. Although Covid rules have now been relaxed and we could reinstate the teas/coffees and biscuits we used to have pre-pandemic, many members have not been enthusiastic about their resumption as it would need organisation and a rota of volunteers to make it happen. Also the bridge sessions run more efficiently without people getting up to fetch refreshments and congregating around the table. Drinks are available at reasonable prices at the bar, with free chilled water. Or members can bring their own. Tim proposed to the meeting that we continue without refreshments and this was agreed by the members. A vote of thanks was extended to Ann, who has been the chief organiser, buying the supplies, including bringing fresh milk each week, since the start of Briter Bridge Club 2 ten years ago, until Covid interrupted play.

Tim thanked his fellow committee members for all they have done over the past year to keep the club going.

3. Financial Report and Accounts.

Colin presented the accounts, audited and signed by Nigel Marshall. Nigel has now stepped down from the role. Stuart Bell has volunteered to take over and this was agreed by the meeting.

It is very clear that, since resuming face to face play, we have not been covering our costs with the current membership subscription and table money. Our balance a year ago was around £2800; it is now down to c £1450 and will continue to deplete unless attendance figures increase. The tuition sessions are bringing in some income (currently at £5 per person; we are charged an additional £8 for the room) and it is to be hoped that, in time, some of these students will progress to playing at our club sessions.

As Treasurer, Colin indicated that we should aim to return to a balance closer to £3000; we use technology and maintenance/repair costs need to be allowed for and possibly updating of our scoring system. (There are better systems than our Bridgemates, that are easier to use.). Also, we might expect further increases to our room rent, given the hikes in energy costs.

Colin proposed that membership subscriptions should increase to £10 per annum and that table money should increase by £1 to £4. A member suggested £5 and this was supported by others and agreed by a 'show of hands' majority. The visitors' rate would rise to £6.

4. Technical Report

Jan, our technical director was unable to attend owing to illness, but her report was very clear and the issues regarding our current technical systems were noted by the meeting. Tim highlighted the request for more volunteers to operate the dealing machine.

5. Membership Report

Ann reported that at the end of the 2021-2022 club year, we had 63 paid-up members. We need more members who attend regularly to ensure the sustainability of the club and Tim and Colin have already referred to the tuition sessions which it is hoped will increase attendance in the future

6. Election of Committee for 2022– 2023

There have been no additional nominations and the current committee members have all indicated their willingness to continue. So the committee for 2022-2023 comprises

Chairman – Tim Burrell, Secretary – Janet Bell, Treasurer – Colin Blount, Technical Director – JanTitcombe, Membership Secretary – Ann Close

7. Consideration of issues regarding resumption of club sessions at Parklanglely

Dealt with above.

8. Beginners tuition sessions

These have started on a trial basis since the beginning of September and are being run by Tim and Colin on Tuesday mornings from 11am to 1pm. An average of 7 people have turned up each time, so far. After half an hour of tuition on a particular topic, the students play some of the cards used on the previous Tuesday evening, with guidance and analysis by Tim and Colin. Other members who would be willing to help at these sessions will be very much welcomed.

9. Annual Meal

About thirty members (and a few former members who are no longer able to attend bridge sessions) enjoyed a delicious lunch in June, with wine provided by the club.

It was agreed that next year we should hold an evening dinner in June (when it will still be reasonably light at the end of the meal).

10. Bridge Weekends

There have been two bridge weekends at The Ardington Hotel in Worthing since the last AGM. Both were very well organised by Susan Hughes and our thanks are due to her for all her hard work. Our first ever weekend took place over the first weekend in October 2021 with 26 players attending – we even had a surprise visit from Elvis and friends! The second event, in May this year, was arranged at relatively short notice, when the hotel offered us a very good deal; 24 players attended and we were treated to a wonderful Mozart aria by an elegantly dressed bass singer.

We are holding a provisional booking for a further bridge weekend in October 2022 at The Burlington Hotel in Folkestone (which is used regularly by Slams, another local club). Susan is again liaising with the hotel. The cost per person will be £235 per person (with no single supplements). We are looking for expressions of interest as soon as possible so that, if the event appears viable, we can pay the non-refundable £1000 deposit; individual deposits of £50 will then become payable by the end of 2022

11. Margaret Burrell Memorial Cup Competition

Stuart Bell is the winner of the competition for 2021-2022 and Tim presented the Cup to him. The committee considers it to be appropriate to introduce a handicap system to enable a range of names to appear on the trophy over the years, with winners barred from entering the competition the following year. There is a system for doing this on the Bridgewebs site and Jan will provide further details.

12. Any Other Business

A vote of thanks was proposed to the committee and endorsed by the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Janet Bell – Secretary

3rd October 2022

