

Briter Bridge Club 2

Annual General Meeting Sunday 20th September 2020

at 7pm via Zoom.

Draft Minutes

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

27 members attended and 23 sent apologies for absence (listed below). The committee met at Tim Burrell's house (with Stuart Bell providing technical support) and other members joined on Zoom.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from AGM 2019

The unadopted minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 28th August 2018 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

Tim highlighted some features of his report. The club has completed its eighth year and continued to operate successfully until Tuesday 10th March when we were forced to stop playing at Parklangley because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The website is still active and there is also a Briter Bridge Club WhatsApp group, which is useful for keeping in touch. Several members now play informal games on Bridgebase Online, also some sessions, including duplicate are being run by local clubs, which welcome additional players. Should we wish to do this, Briter would need to affiliate to the EBU. Any members who would like to play online can seek support to do this from committee members; the WhatsApp group is useful for arranging games; if members would like to join this (and they need a smartphone to do so) they should contact Jan.

We had hoped to have held our first residential weekend in early June, but obviously this had to be cancelled. Tim thanked Susan Hughes for all the work she had put into this – the weekend has now been rescheduled for the first weekend in October 2021 and we very much hope this will be able to go ahead.

Tim referred to the very thorough 'Covid 19' risk assessment regarding possible resumption at Parklangley, prepared by Jan. This had been circulated to members and several written responses had been submitted; there was no enthusiasm for returning to play any time soon and this was reinforced by those present at the meeting. It was agreed that the committee should come back to the membership when the time is right.

Tim thanked his fellow committee members for their support in running Briter Bridge Club 2 and Stuart for helping with technical aspects of running the Zoom meeting.

4. Financial Report and Accounts

Ann presented the audited accounts for 2019 – 2020, which covered about six months of activity. While there are some expenses even while we are unable to play at Parklangley (Insurance, Bridgewebs fee

and Parklangley Club social membership totalling £195), we have a very healthy balance of almost £3000 which will enable us to recommence paying the room rental and other on-going expenses, when we are able to restart. Ann recommended that we did not ask members to pay annual subscriptions at this point, as would normally be the case, and that table money for members and visitors should stay at the current rate when we do resume play. These proposals were unanimously approved.

5. Technical Report

Jan presented her report. When lockdown started, we had the option of suspending the website and extending our subscription, but the committee decided to keep it running, so we could maintain communication with members, and provide information eg about playing online. We also set up a WhatsApp group (contact Jan if you would like to join).

Jan has undertaken research into options for scoring (using tablets or mobile phones) which would slightly reduce the Covid risk, should we resume play at Parklangley, although they will almost certainly improve the playing experience post-Covid anyway and our Bridgemates will eventually need replacing.

6. Membership Report

Colin presented his report. At the beginning of September 2019, we had 77 members; down from 86 and 90 in the previous two years. Afternoon attendances had averaged 7 tables, with just one session approaching capacity, at 8.5. The evening average was 5.5 tables, with one low attendance of just 3.5. Colin recommended that we continue with the low level recruitment effort that had been in place before lockdown, especially with regard to encouraging more evening players.

7. Election of Committee for 2020 – 2021

The members of the committee had all indicated their willingness to continue and there had been no other nominations, so the current committee was re-elected by the meeting.

Chairman - Tim Burrell, Secretary – Janet Bell, Treasurer – Ann Close,

Technical Director – Jan Titcombe, Membership Secretary – Colin Blount

8. Any Other Business

Tim presented the Margaret Burrell Memorial Cup to Stuart and Janet Bell jointly, which they were delighted to receive. There was a vote of thanks from the meeting to the committee.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Janet Bell – Secretary
September 2020

Tim Burrell, Ann Close, Jan Titcombe, Colin Blount, Janet Bell, Luke Titcombe, Stuart Bell, Sheila Weymouth, Claire Marshall, Kate Mitchell, Anne Alloca, Yvonne McEwen, Mike Rawstron, Susan Lee, Brian Close, Margaret Styles, Howard Surfleet, Pete Lee, Rae Lee, Briony Weedman, Maggie McDowall, Margaret Styles, Andrea Hixson, Valerie Holder, Jenny Davies, Joan Evans, Peter Ergis

Apologies

Caroline Ashcroft, Derek Chadwick, Susan Hughes, Duncan Bell, Pat Hunt, Audrey Garrett, Manci Szalay, Sue Langley, Anthony Perkins, Leena Shah, Wilma Shepherd, Helen Elliot-Doyle, Liz Gerrish, Maureen Mitchell, Giacoma Benfadhel, Janis Fancett, Doreen Prockter, Clive Davies, Reidun Stockwell, Graham Stockwell, Sheila Tutt, Angela Hughes