

## **Camberley Bridge Club**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 in the Club-room.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Val Foster. The attendance list records 50 members present, including the Chairman and committee members, and apologies for absence were received from 37 members.

**Minutes of 2017 AGM:** These were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

**Chairman's Report:** Val regretted to report that reduced attendance and another large increase in rent, had resulted in a loss this year, as could be seen from the accounts. This year, we had been running the host system, and had received support from a number of members who had volunteered. An average of 7 sessions per month for each of the past nine months had been covered by a host, and she thanked them for doing so, but we needed more members to support this initiative. The club had been running for about 44 years and it needed members' help in ensuring the host system worked, meaning that the Club would remain viable.

During her year as Chairman, she had been very grateful for the help and support of the committee - she would not have even considered the position without each of them, Geoff (now secretary) & President, Jerrold, both past-masters of chairmanship and who have offered advice when needed: Jane as treasurer, who had worked hard to set up online banking this year; Ian as Webmaster and technical adviser in streamlining our admin and record keeping, as well as Match Secretary; David, our talented Chief TD and our shuffler & dealer for every session since 2011; Linda as our host system co-ordinator, Moira for promoting publicity for the club, and Sylvia - our assistant treasurer/scorer/refreshment provider. She also thanked all our directors, scorers, setter-uppers, clearer-uppers and table money collectors. Their help was noticed and appreciated. She was pleased to say that Penny Moody had agreed to join the committee. She was already one of our directors, and was to be trained as a scorer too, so she would be a very useful member in helping to run the club. She invited the members present to join her in thanking all these volunteers.

However, she was sad to say that Alan had decided to step down from the committee this year. She believed he was our longest-serving committee member from 1999 - he was Secretary for many years, then Webmaster and Chief Scorer, responsible for setting up our original scoring units in 2009. Alan had also made a huge contribution by running our afternoon sessions for many years where he had gained a reputation for promoting "gentle" bridge, which continued to this day. Friday was the only session where table numbers are increasing - we had a record 12.5 tables and three new members last Friday - and this is largely due to Alan. She presented him with a gift in recognition of his years of service, and also announced that the committee had made him an Honorary Life Member.

Turning to the Christmas parties, she admitted that her heart sank at the thought of organising it for a twelfth time. The cold buffet was labour-intensive and dependent on a high level of organisation and effort from a large number of members. So a sub-committee had met to discuss changing the format to try to simplify the event, and providing a hot buffet ourselves was mooted. However, it was felt that this too would over-stretch our resources.

We had, however, received a generous offer from a professional caterer at a very competitive and generously reduced cost compared with commercial rates, who would

provide an all-inclusive buffet, with a choice of three hot dishes with rice, followed by desserts. The cost will be £15pp including wine, but this will save a tremendous amount of work for the organisers and, after keeping ticket costs at £10 since 2012, ever rising food and wine prices, even with self-catering, we would have had to raise ticket prices this year anyway. Tickets for this and for the Friday party (@£6pp) would be on sale shortly.

We would again be running our usual raffles. Members' generosity had helped to raise £400 last year, for the second year running, for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. We had raised a total of £5,400 for them since 2006. It was very much appreciated by them.

Val said that, after the AGM, we would be using for the first time the new BridgeTabs, which had been purchased from the legacy left to us by Pat Holliday. She and her husband, Arthur, had been very good and competitive players of the Blue Club convention. Pat had been one of our wartime heroes who served at Bletchley Park and she had been very keen on the technology of BridgePads when they were introduced in 2009, so she felt sure she would approve how part of her generous legacy had been spent.

Val said she was very grateful indeed to Ian who had spent a very considerable time in setting up the new units, and in training several committee members in their use. We owed him a great debt for his efforts. He was tonight going to lead us through the use of the units. She thought that members would enjoy the much clearer graphics on the new Tabs, which would show players' names and, at last, the lead!

**Treasurer's report:** Jane thanked Fraser for inspecting the accounts, and Sylvia and other helpers for collecting table money. She reported that there had been a deficit of £593 last year, primarily as a result of another substantial increase in the rent we pay, but also because of unexpected repairs to the dealing machine. Some of last year's costs will not recur, which should offset a further increase in rent.

The committee had agreed that we should aim to keep about £10,000 in our reserves, which would enable us to replace all our assets, and to cover an additional 3 months of running expenses. It was, therefore, felt that there was no need at present to raise either the subscription fee, or table money.

Adoption of the accounts for 2017/18 were proposed by Penny Moody, seconded by Vee Radhakrishnan, and agreed.

**Match Secretary's report:** Ian reported that out teams competing in the Surrey Leagues had enjoyed great success last year, as did our team in the Bracknell league. We also had two teams in the NICKO, and members taking part in the Met Cup.

Together with Yateley & Hawley, we organised the second annual Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs event in May. Congratulations to Margaret and Dorothy on their victory.

Most of our Club competitions were now completed, and the trophies will be presented at the Christmas party – congratulations to all the winners.

**Election of Officers and committee:** The following were elected unopposed:

Chairman - Val Foster

Treasurer - Jane Green

Secretary - Geoff Williams

President - Jerrold Lee

Committee – David Pinder, Linda Holt, Sylvia Skiba, Ian Lewis, Moira Nairn, Penny  
Moody

**Inspector of Accounts:** Val was pleased to report that Fraser Glass had again agreed to act as our Inspector of accounts.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.25pm