COUNTY BRIDGE CLUB

Registered Charity 1179979

**Draft Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of County Bridge Club CIO**

 **(60th Annual General Meeting of County Bridge Club)**

**held remotely on Wednesday 16th June 2021**

Covid-19 restrictions have again made it impractical to hold a face-to-face Annual General Meeting in 2021. The Trustees have concluded that the safest and most practical way forward is to hold the process ‘virtually’ and to invite members to take part remotely, via CBC website, email and post. Attendance towards the quorum has been taken as the number of completed voting forms received by the due date from those entitled to vote.

Jane Smith agreed to be the examiner of all votes.

**Present**: Mr Walkerdine and 27 members

**Minutes of the 59th AGM held on 15th July 2020:** were approved.

**Minutes of the SGM held on 5th May 2021:**  were approved.

**Treasurer’s Financial Report:**

The accounts had previously been circulated to all members. See attached.

**The accounts were approved.**

**Subscriptions:**

The proposal that subscriptions for CBC for 2021/2022 be nil, and table money to remain at £2.50 was **approved**.

**Chairman’s & Trustees’ Report:**

It has been a bridge year like no other. We have all had to adapt to using online bridge systems to keep our game and club alive as entry to the premises has been restricted to Trustees and Workmen only. Just because we are closed, it doesn’t mean that we can hold off on H&S requirements. Gas, Emergency Lighting and Fire Alarm inspections still need to be carried out. We have run heating for an hour every day to avoid a freeze up during the cold spell. Costs don’t go away.

We have refunded all payments to those who signed up for our Bridge Holiday in Torquay and we hope to get our bridge holidays restarted in March 2022.

Kate Boulter, Secretary has continued to edit a monthly newsletter so that all our members are aware of our activities during this difficult time. During the year Isabel Crump joined the committee as minutes secretary and I am delighted that she has agreed to the nomination of Secretary at the next AGM as Kate Boulter steps down due to other commitments. Kate has agreed to remain as our Social Secretary/ Housekeeper.

We have 314 people registered on our website of which 56 are entered as our new grade of membership ‘Virtual’.

It is not clear when we will be able to reopen safely. In April 2021 a building inspection by an H&S professional will advise us on what we need to do to become covid compliant.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this report. Anthea Byrne has saved me lots of work by starting this report and pulling together the individual contributions. As you will read below all our Trustees and Committee have been busy during the year; we have a most enthusiastic and cooperative team. I would like to record my thanks to all of them for their continued support. We have a fantastic club, we intend it to continue – SAFELY.

Ian Walkerdine, Chair

County Bridge Club runs contract duplicate bridge sessions and is affiliated to the English Bridge Union. The Club was formed in 1961 and has approximately 250 members who play bridge at club sessions, competitions and represent the club in the league run by Leicestershire Contract Bridge Association. Due to Covid 19 Government restrictions the club has been closed since 16th March 2020 and no face-to-face bridge has been played at the Club. In June 2020 the Club began offering members organised duplicate sessions online, via Bridgebase Online and later RealBridge, and we have over two hundred registered online players. The Trustees have used the club closure to continue to improve the Club facilities with building work to create a committee room and to fit new kitchen units to the two tea rooms. Plans are in place to replace kitchen equipment. This would be the final part of the Club refurbishment since the purchase in 2019.

We have not charged our members any subscriptions this year and have had reduced income from table money as we are only operating three sessions on line. There has been no rental income, no bridge holiday and a much-reduced teaching programme, which was offered online. We have received various government grants totalling £52,500 which has enabled the club to cover its costs and plan to reopen when Government restrictions allow. It has been a very strange year.

Our charitable objective is to further the playing and teaching of bridge. In furtherance of this objective our bridge sessions are open to visitors and we welcome members from all walks of life. We run a formal teaching program covering formal courses for beginners, intermediates, and on card play. This year our teaching programme was limited due to a move online. Our other bridge supporting activities have been suspended while the Club was closed. We do offer bursaries to members unable to afford the teaching fees. We offer sponsored training for English Bridge Union qualifications for volunteers who either teach or run the duplicate sessions but these had to be cancelled this year.

As a Club we run specific sessions for Charitable purposes which this year has been limited to on line only. We continue to support Rainbows through this endeavour.

During the year we completed on the sale of our previous premises at 1 St James Road which sold for £351,000. This generated a profit of £244,941 in the year and allowed us to repay member loans. The Club now has substantial surplus funds which we intend to invest and use the income to further our charitable objective.

The Trustees of the Club meet regularly, on Zoom during lockdown and have access to quarterly financial reports on the performance of the Club and continue to do financial and tax planning to maximise the financial position of the Club. The Trustees are happy that we have the financial reserves to support the Club in this difficult time and for an extended period while we restart the Club.

**Secretary’s Report**

Due to Covid restrictions the Trustees and co-opted committee members met remotely once every two months via Zoom.

As Covid-19 made it impossible to hold our Annual General Meeting as planned at St. Oswaldon 5 June 2020, the trustees decided, in the light of the latest advice from the Charity Commission, that the safest and most practical way forward was to delay the meeting until 15 July 2020 and hold it remotely, inviting members to take part electronically or by post where no email was registered.

The Trustees members at March 2021:

Trustee/ Chairman: Ian Walkerdine

Trustee/ Secretary: Kate Boulter

Trustee / Treasurer : Anthea Byrne

Trustee : Charles Gurr

Trustee : Alastair Lennox

Trustee : Simon Stokes

Bryan Warraker resigned as a trustee in July 2020.

Frank Travers, Iza Crump and Richard Bell were co-opted to the Committee for 2020/21.

The Trustees of County Bridge Club were delighted to announce that Ian Walkerdine has been awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of the service he has given and

his substantial input to the club through his work as Chairman and Tournament Secretary over many years. Ian was presented with his trophy at a Trustee Zoom Meeting held in November 2020 and attended by the other Honorary Life members of the club.

Congratulations Ian, this was well deserved

St Oswald, County Bridge Club premises, has been closed since March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, therefore no face-to-face events have been held.

A Special General Meeting of County Bridge Club CIO was held remotely on Wednesday 5th May 2021 when members were asked to approve the following resolution:

The ‘County Bridge Club Articles of Association’ be adopted. The Articles of Association enable trustees to deal with organisational aspects of County Bridge Club. In the case of any conflict between this document and the Constitution, the Constitution shall take precedence. Mr Terry Green was appointed by the trustees as examiner of all votes.

The resolution was approved**.**

Kate Boulter – Secretary

**Treasurers Report 2020-2021**

The Committee have pleasure in presenting the Financial Statements of the Club to the membership, and report on another momentous year. The Club has made a profit of £285,508 primarily due to the completion of the sale of the old premises 1 St James Road. Profit on the sale was £244,941 and this allowed us to repay the member loans, also giving a substantial balance which we intend to invest for the long term.

As the Club has been closed for the whole year, there is very little income from table money, only that generated by online games. There is no rental income and no holiday income. We have not charged subscriptions because we are closed. The teaching income was limited to online sessions. Therefore the costs of running the empty club are much less than our income from bridge activities but we have been in receipt of Government grants of £52,500 and this has allowed us to cover our costs and plan for re-opening in a gradual way when Government restrictions allow.

We have put in place plans for the Club to go cashless on our return and now can take card payments, bank cheques remotely and are using the Bridgewebs attendance module to run individual accounts for the members. We have also researched a suitable Investment Manager for the Club to invest the surplus funds and are in the process of moving monies to them. This was a particularly onerous exercise for the Investment Subcommittee.

With the Club building closed for the year the Committee continued to improve the premises with the conversion of unused toilets into a committee room, new Kitchen units in the two tea rooms, provision of air conditioning in the main playing rooms and automatic opening doors on the main routes into the building. When we are able to open the Club, we hope all members will be proud of the Club and enjoy the new facilities.

Given our excellent results this year we have been advised by our honorary auditor that we should seek a formal audit for the Accounts prior to submission to the Charity commission. We thank Richard Smith for all his time and expertise in working with the Finance Team to produce the formal accounts.

 Anthea Byrne - Treasurer

**Tournament Secretary Report**

As it became clear that face to face [F2F] was not going to be a short hiatus, initially we had a member questionnaire to find out about online bridge activity. Then the committee divided the membership to contact all members to offer assistance in training to play online. This represented a huge effort by the committee and a few volunteers. 3 members undertook Tournament Director training and we launched our first online session in late June [2nd Leicestershire club to do so] and were the first Leicestershire club to move to multiple sessions [3]. Gradually participants have increased to now about 220 registered as online members/associates/students. At times we have broken existing F2F attendance on both Monday and Friday sessions. We have 5 or 6 ‘out of area’ participants including a life member who moved to Yorkshire over 15 years ago. [and hadn’t been back to the club since]

One evening session didn’t work and has been abandoned but a gentle session has been running for less experienced players and is being expanded to include students

In addition, we have run 2 league competitions and 1 charity event for Rainbows children’s hospice. Further competitions are in the pipeline including one to support a local food bank. Unfortunately, one planned charity event didn’t attract enough support to be viable.

Richard Bell - Tournament Secretary

**Membership**

The Club has on record 253 current members following two non-renewals. We are pleased to welcome 10 new members to the Club despite the Club being closed during the year.

We sadly have to report the death of a long-standing member Marjorie Gilbertson. She will be sadly missed. We also know of two other members who passed away, David Godfrey and Geoff Marlow .

Charles Gurr - Membership Secretary

**Teaching**

As soon as it was clear that Covid19 would prevent us from running our usual teaching program we decided to venture into online teaching. A teaching sub-committee was set up and Lucy Pathan was asked to chair the group which comprised 4 EBU qualified teachers (Simon Stokes, Lyn Hilton, Lucy Pathan and Judy Hill), Ian Walkerdine (Trustee), Richard Smith and Kate Boulter (Trustee/ Admin).

It was agreed to set up a new website to be dedicated to teaching (CBCT). All our teaching committee, students and helpers are registered (40). Online teaching initially presented some technical issues. We had to become proficient using Bridge Base Online (BBO), Zoom and Powerpoint which for many was a whole new set of languages. On 2nd February a 13 week course of online lessons began , 8 students registered for Year 1 Plus and 22 students registered for Year 2 Advanced.

The teachers were supported by helpers (Terry Green, Charles Gurr, Jonathan Hughes, Tom Lindop, Paul Loveday, Richard Smith, Joanna Tuppen and Anne Wright), with grateful thanks.

Special thanks to Richard Smith who produced the presentation material in Powerpoint using Paul Bowyer’s lessons course. These presentations can also be used in the classroom if/when we get back to classroom teaching.

Ian Walkerdine

**Premises**

With the club closing in March 2020 a number of upgrades and refurbishments were carried out.

1. Both the Club and Tournament rooms have now had air conditioning fitted.
2. The tea room in the foyer has been upgraded.
3. The old committee room has been fitted out to be the new tea room for the Tournament room. The previous tea room is now a storeroom.
4. The obsolete toilets in the club room have been converted to be the new committee room
5. The front door, 2 internal doors and disabled toilet have been converted to hands-free opening.
6. All toilets taps have been converted to hands-free.
7. Installation of hand sanitisers throughout the club.
8. The CCTV has been upgraded to cover all parts of the 2 car parks.
9. A new honours board in the club colours has been added to the foyer.

As you can see although the club has been closed the committee has been very busy upgrading the club taking into account the safety of our members and new covid regulations and restrictions.

When we resume playing the Trustees will be looking at the benefits and cost of installing solar power. This will reduce our electricity bill to near zero, with any excess sold to the National grid, and also benefit our green credentials by reducing our carbon footprint.

Alastair Lennox - Buildings Chairman

**The adoption of this report was carried.**

**Election of Trustees**

The following trustees were elected unopposed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Office |  |
| Chairman/trustee | Ian Walkerdine |
| Secretary/trustee | Isabel Crump |
| Treasurer/ trustee | Anthea Byrne |
| Trustee | Charles Gurr |
| Trustee | Alastair Lennox |
| Trustee | Simon Stokes |

**Election of Financial examiner**:

Richard Smith was thanked both for the examination of accounts and other help he has kindly provided over the previous year. He is happy to continue in this role.

**The proposal for his re-election was carried.**