

Minutes of the Cheltenham Bridge Club (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

5th Annual General Meeting

Held at 4 Tivoli Road on Saturday 26 April 2025

Alan Wearmouth, Chair of the Trustees, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone on behalf of the Trustees and thanking everyone for showing their interest and taking the trouble to attend the meeting. He mentioned that someone had just made a sensible request about putting in a loop system and that this would be looked into.

In his address, Alan thanked all the volunteers for their support in running the Club. The Club is always looking for new volunteers to offer their services which are invaluable in enabling members to play bridge safely, happily and frequently. He pointed out that the Club has now had an Operations and Development Manager, Steve Bunker, in post for about six months. This new role is developing as time goes on. An important management element involves working with volunteers to give the best possible service to members and the development element involves assisting the Trustees and Management Committee in plotting the way forward for the Club. This appointment ensures that the Club meets its regulatory and legal responsibilities.

Alan emphasised that following the employment of a paid managerial role, the procedures, charges, rules and policies which support the Club's work need tweaking or updating to ensure clarity of responsibility. This process is starting today and will continue at least to next year's meeting. The Trustees and Management Committee always try to do what is best for the future of CBC whilst respecting the past. (Full text attached)

1. Members present and apologies

There were 74 members in attendance and thus the quorum was established. Apologies were received from John Botting, Don and Veronica Chidgey, David Colyer, Val Constable, Carol Cowlshaw, Geoff Foster, Angela Gatliff, Lesley Martin, Tim Rigby, Alan and Judy Sanis and Zubayr Sulaiman.

2. Minutes of CBC CIO AGM held on 27 April 2024

The minutes of the 4th AGM, held on 27 April 2024, were approved by a majority decision.

3. Reports*

Chair of CBC CIO report – Sophie Jaques' report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Sophie wished to highlight a few points:

- The importance of volunteers and their huge contribution to the smooth and successful running of the Club.
- A tribute to two people who are stepping down from the Management Committee. Firstly, Nicola Renshaw who has been a key leader of the teaching programme and the Bournemouth holiday and secondly, John Skjonnemand who has done a tremendous job over many years organising the directors and bridge programme. Their work has been very much appreciated.
- Sophie is looking for a deputy for herself. The MC runs pretty smoothly but she would like a deputy to help her and asked that if anyone was interested in this nice supportive role, please would they come forward.

2025 Annual Report of CBC CIO Trustees – the report was adopted unanimously.

Teaching Report – there were no questions.

4. Election of Officers

The following people were elected, both unanimously:

Robert Huguenin, catering and café. Proposed by Sophie Jaques, seconded by Helen Bryant.

Jan Bailey, player development. Proposed by Sophie Jaques, seconded by Helen Bryant.

5. Election of Trustees

Ashok Kwatra was reappointed as a trustee, unanimously. Proposed by Alan Wearmouth, seconded by Nigel Burton.

Alastair Catchpole was elected as a new trustee, unanimously. Proposed by Sophie Jaques, seconded by Alan Wearmouth.

6. Approval of revised Rules

The revision to Rules regarding membership was approved unanimously. Proposed by Helen Bryant, seconded by Linda Barratt.

7. Approval of revised table money

Sophie hoped that members had seen the arguments for raising the table money on the Club website. The table money has not been put up since 2017 and inflation has gone up 30%. It was pointed out that the proposed charge was similar to other large bridge

clubs across the country and was not an unreasonable cost for entertainment in nice surroundings. A discussion followed.

Pauline Mussi queried the considerable funds held in reserve and whether as a charity this amount was excessive. Alan Wearmouth explained that the Trustees are allowed to have a reserve that they think is reasonable and that it was now thought that the reserve of £100,000 should be increased. CBC occupies a wonderful listed building which needs maintenance and there needs to be a healthy cash reserve for unforeseen events. All utility bills and insurances have risen considerably.

Being a bridge club means that there are a lot of post-retirement people in voluntary roles. The combination of this and the daily organisation of the Club means that we need someone to manage everything. The Trustees' view is that the people who play bridge should contribute to these costs.

Maggie Conu suggested that the subscription be raised rather than table money. There was also a query as to whether both the subscription and table money should be raised. It was explained that within the fully paid membership of 521, approximately 200 never play at the Club but are happy to pay the subscription. If this was put up, it is likely that they would not pay anymore.

Alan Wearmouth said that the Management Committee manage the bridge club and put a lot of time and effort into crunching numbers and looking at figures. This was the best proposal to put to members for the long term survival of the Club.

The proposal to raise table money to £4.50 was approved by a majority. Proposed by Angela Gatliff, seconded by Helen Bryant. Eleven people voted against.

8. AOB

The question of financial pressure for some people was raised. Tim Russell said that there is a clause to make special provision for this and it will be discussed at the next Management Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 18.40.

*Copies of all papers were made available to members prior to the AGM.