

Draft Minutes of AGM
Chepstow Archway Bridge Club
October 26th 2020 by Zoom Call

Members present: Sheila Montgomery, John Whiteside, Ray Mardon, Graham Eele, Dave Smith, Sue Blake, Pam Robinson, Greg Howell, Richard Stevenson, John Mayo, Harry Kear, David Green, Peter Taylor, Gail Jones, Rosemary Kemble, Vic Pritchard, Bridget Evans, Liz Klinkert, Grace Martyn.

Apologies: Carolyne Ogden, Caroline Gawler, Stewart Anderton, Pat and Brandon Waters, Marjorie Terrell, Sandra Gregory.

Chair's Remarks. (full text attached)

Half of our members now play on line, and this is thriving. Thanks to Dave Smith, assisted by Pete Taylor, for setting up and facilitating our Club pairs night on Wednesdays, our teams leagues and our Club competitions. Turnout has been good for the pairs and excellent for the leagues and Claret Cup. Face to face bridge is sorely missed by our off line members, and we want to resume this when it is safe to do so.

Thanks to our retiring Treasurer John Whiteside for all his work. He has been reliable, utterly dependable and quietly capable. Thanks also to Christine Brierley who is also stepping down from the committee.

Treasurer's Report. (please see full text attached)

With declining membership, reduced income from table money, and Palmer Centre rent increases, face to face bridge will need to be more expensive if we return to our pre-Covid format. On line bridge has started to give a small income with no outlay.

Adoption of Accounts and Appointment of Auditor.

The Accounts were accepted by the meeting, and SM will approach Hugh Green to ask if he will audit next year's accounts.

Election of Officers and Committee Members.

Graham Eele was put forward for the Treasurers post. The remaining committee and club officers were willing to continue – Sheila Montgomery (chair), Ray Mardon (secretary), Dave Smith and Sue Blake. Their re-election was proposed en bloc by Rosemary Kemble and seconded by Peter Taylor.

Matters Arising.

It was proposed by SM that an Extraordinary AGM would be held when it seemed possible to restart face to face bridge safely and legally. Until then SM proposed that no subscription would be charged and club membership would be free. Greg Howell suggested a nominal subscription might be charged, but the meeting felt this would be difficult to organise. The proposal for no subscription charge was passed unanimously.

The major decisions involved in restarting live bridge – subscription rates, table money, when and where to play, the role of on line bridge – will be dealt with at the Extraordinary AGM.

A.o.B. and open discussion.

There was a discussion about how to attract new members. GE mentioned advertising in local forums. Personal contact and word of mouth were suggested as good ways to engage others. It was suggested approaching the Newham club players, and SM will enquire through Pat Davey and Caroline Gawler. Grace Martyn has connections in Monmouth bridge club and she will do likewise.

Ray Mardon wanted to know if all members (newly joined for free or not) should be eligible for the remaining Club Competitions. A

minimum of playing with the club for 5 occasions was agreed with no geographical requirements.

Vic Pritchard raised the issue of keeping the membership list up to date and co-ordinating the list with the web site data. This would help with communication between members and assist with partnership finding on the web site. SM will email the membership and ask if there are any changes to email and phone numbers, and mention updating their profile on the web site to help enable partnership finding. Pete Taylor will help anyone with IT difficulties.

The meeting ended at 17.05.