

CHEPSTOW ARCHWAY BRIDGE CLUB
DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM 29 OCTOBER 2018

An Attendance Sheet recording the arrival of the members at the AGM recorded the attendance of thirty-nine members.

1. Apologies for Absence – Six apologies had been received by the Secretary prior to the meeting and a further seven were received at the meeting.

John Mayo (JM) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the AGM. He then asked the meeting for a show of hands to approve the Minutes of the 2017 AGM. Peter Smith (PS) raised a point regarding his request point 12.ii) of those Minutes requesting Club Minutes to be placed on the Notice Board. JM informed the meeting that the Minutes were promptly placed on the Club's website following Committee Meeting, but he would pass the issue to Sheila Montgomery (SM) to raise at a future Committee Meeting. JM asked for a Proposer (Marjorie Evans), and a Seconder (Doreen Griffiths). JM asked for a show of hands and the majority voted in favour of acceptance.

2. Chairman's Report – JM stated that the Treasurer's Report that was to follow would cover many of the significant facts concerning the club during the past year, which in fact has been a relatively 'quiet' year.

Concerning competitions, The Club convincingly beaten by the Monmouth Club when we played our annual match against them, but all who took part enjoyed it none the less. This year there were joint winners of the Claret Cup, Christine Brierley and Peter Cole (who always do well in the competition) and Greg Howell and Richard Stevenson.

This year's charity function had been an enjoyable evening and we sent £370.00 to St David's Hospice in memory of Doreen Worrell who had been a longstanding and well respected member. Unfortunately the summer party this year had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

JM stated that he would like to thank all the members for the support that he had received from them during his brief chairmanship, and whilst he did not want this to sound like an awards ceremony, he particularly wished to mention the past chairmen Brian, Brandon and Peter who have given him an immense amount of help and guidance, and finally he wished to mention Carlyne, who had worked tirelessly and efficiently on behalf of the club whilst she had been secretary, and who had really been responsible for most of the organisation of the club during the last year.

3. Treasurers Report – John Whiteside (JW) apologised for not being at the AGM. He reported that number of people playing bridge this year has decreased considerably. Despite this, the Club increased its cash holdings by over £300, this was due largely to abolishing the prize money, and, by a modest increase of 50p in the table money in June. There are currently 89 members of the Club. Unfortunately, quite a few former members did not rejoin this year but more members were gained from from the beginners' course.

The next year will be challenging, in November, the rent for the Palmer Centre will increase by about 50%. (There has been no increase for several years.) This would mean that the Club would need to have just over 4 tables a night to cover the cost of the rent. Although the Club averaged over 5 tables a night during the course of last year, some nights the numbers were lamentably small and as table money is our major source of income, it is important to keep up attendances.

Although cash-wise the Club had been moderately successful, the overall assets of the Club have decreased, this was mainly due to depreciation of the Duplimate and Bridgemates by about £900 in the year (this effect will decrease in the coming years, and is not an immediate cause for concern.)

Overall, considering the fall off in attendance, the finances are reasonably healthy. Hopefully, the increase in table money next year should largely cover the increase in rent, and we will endeavour to keep the table money to £2. However, if attendances drop off or there are other large expenses the table money will be reviewed and increased if necessary.

Finally, as the subscriptions have not gone up for a number of years, JW proposed that we increase the club subscriptions from £6 to £7.50 for next year or to £17.50 including the WBU subscription. This proposal was put to the membership and agreed by a large majority. In conclusion, JW wished to thank Hugh Green for once again auditing the annual accounts.

4. Master Points Proposal – SM explained that she felt that they would be a benefit to the Club, and would hopefully encourage more people to join and make the evenings more interesting for the Members. SM explained how Master Points worked and said that there would be no cost to the Club for the first 6 months and she explained that the software necessary to operate Masterpoints had been uploaded onto the Clubs system by Peter Taylor and was ready to start. She urged the members to give them a fair trial, and if members had any issues, or real problems with them to discuss it with her. Stewart Anderton asked how the success of the trial would be measured. The members were asked for a show of hands on running a trial and the majority of the membership were in favour (4 votes against). The trial will run upto the next AGM when it will be on the Agenda for review by the membership

5. Adoption of Accounts for 2017- 2018 – JM asked for Proposer (Christine Brierley) and a Seconder (Carole Colburn) – the Accounts were adopted following a large show of hands in favour. John Whiteside and Hugh Green were thanks for their hard work on behalf of the Club.

6. Appointment of Auditor – The Treasurer stated that Hugh Green had indicated that he was prepared to continue in the role. (Peter Taylor Proposed and Bridget Evans Seconded)

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members – the existing Committee Members seeking re-election having all been proposed and seconded were voted en bloc by the Membership. Sheila Montgomery was proposed for the position of Chairman by John Mayo and John Whiteside. Ray Mardon was proposed for the position of Club Secretary by Pat Walters and Brandon Walter. Christine Brierley was proposed to re-join the Committee by Sue Blake and Peter Taylor. All were elected unopposed.

8. Motions Received –

- One night play should start no earlier than 19.15hrs – this proposal was put forward by Greg Howell to enable working people to be able to attend the Club. The discussion that followed pointed out that there was only 1 working club member, and that the membership as a whole were not in favour of starting later in the evening. The voted by a large majority against this proposal.

- That the start time be amended to 18.30hrs to allow for a 30 minutes break in the middle of the evening. JM pointed out to the meeting that Doreen had been providing hot drinks during the Club evenings for many years, and that there was no reason that this should not continue with other people preparing the drinks as required. Members pointed out that if there was a half table, as often happened on a Wednesday evening, the half table would be sitting out for a unacceptable length of time . The members voted against this proposal.

9. Any Other Business

- Concerns were raised about the integration of new players from the classes into the Club on Wednesday evening this will be discussed by the Committee.
- JM thanks Sue Blake on behalf of the Club for her organisation of Wednesday Evening Bridge.

The Meeting Closed at 19.10hrs