

# **Minutes of 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Farnborough (Kent) Bridge Club**

**Held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Committee Members present:** Chris Clegg (Chairman), John Hunt (Treasurer), James Foster (Acting Secretary), Wendy Church and Rodney Meredith.

**Other Members present:** Pauline Boatwright, Janet Koczyk, Jan Johnson, Graham Clements, Hilary Powell, David Powell, Susanne Walsh, Barbara Jackson, Jenifer Kerr, Norman Inniss, Mary Kendall, Rod Steed, Chris Steed, Bob Kendall, Lesley Pechey, Roger Pechey, Brian Grimwood, Jean O'Doherty, Sue Parkins, Vivienne Matthews, Indiana Hamilton, Bob Manser, Gillian Foster, Allan Foster, Richard Anscombe, Valerie Smith, John Hunter, Tony Conway, Don Mitchell, Jo Lightfoot, Gordon McBride, Teresa Berry, Susan Phillips, Ian Galletti, Yogi Rajah, Norman Kinkaid, Mike Pearson, Mike Rafferty, Margaret Jones, Tom Smith, Charles Scott, Matthew Beddow and Meera Gandhe.

Total present: 48

## **1. Apologies for absence**

Joan Chandler, Marian Hunt, Brad Featherman, John Hemington, Jennifer Viles, Mike Hampton, Peter Cox, Roy Lambert, David Hudson, David Brown, Stephen Brown, John Oakland, Diana Potter, Moya Nesom, Janet Davies, Martin Davies, David Stern, Luke Kerr, Simon Read, Brian Hogg, Tony Urwin, Mike Wood, Helen Gibbons, Richard Gibbons, Leila Williams, Christine Kempton.

## **2. Approval of minutes of 71<sup>st</sup> AGM**

John Hunt proposed this, David Powell seconded. Passed, with all in favour.

## **3. Matters Arising**

None.

## **4. Election of officers**

Chairman, Chris Clegg, Treasurer, John Hunt and committee members Wendy Church, Joan Chandler & Rodney Meredith were uncontested. The nomination of James Foster as Secretary was also uncontested, so the Chairman suggested a 'bloc-vote' for all these appointments.

Hilary Powell proposed this, Charles Scott seconded. Passed, with all in favour.

## **5. Chairman's report**

The Chairman's report for 2023-24 was as follows:

Farnborough enjoyed great success last year, both on and off the table. Overall membership increased 20% to 150 and Tuesday bridge gained traction. I want to thank John Oakland, Tom Smith, James Foster and Susanne Walsh, for their hard work there, and of course, Rodney for keeping everyone on their toes!

In 2022/23 we averaged 8.7 tables a night. Last year, attendance went up 15% to more than 10 tables per night and, with Tuesdays, we opened the club 124 times and welcomed 4,720 players. Or as I like to think of it, 20,000 biscuits!

That resulted in lots of extra work so I would like to thank the committee and the subcommittee: Joan, Wendy, John, Rodney, James, Tony and Christine for their professionalism and diligence, and all the dealers, hosts, directors, scorers and keyholders who helped to keep this ship afloat.

Special thanks goes to Hilary Powell, Graham Clements and Mike Penney for all their advice, John Hemington our Captain, Richard Creamer our webmaster, Norman Inniss our teacher, Jenny Kerr our headmistress and Wendy our star baker.

On the table, Farnborough also excelled. Our A team retained the Corbett Cup and the B and C teams were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Two further teams performed admirably in the plate and the Mitchell Salver and the club will field at least as many teams again this year.

All team members are listed on the noticeboard, with other notable successes such as Mary Kendall & Val Smith in the Fleming Femina; Norman Selway, Kay Preddy, Mike Hampton & Michael Prior in the Arnold Cup; and Phil Jones and John Miller in the Dorset Swiss Pairs.

There are still tables left for the 'Swiss Pairs' on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**. With Bromley North, we hope to raise over **£1,000** for Cancer Research with all **£15** entry fees going to Cancer Research and sandwiches/cake/drinks (paid for by the two clubs) all included.

Finally, thanks for supporting the club and a reminder with winter coming that players should be present by **7.15pm** – and if the movement requires it, no moaning about moving around the room unless you are wearing a boot!

Chris Clegg (Chair)

## **6. Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer's report for 2023-24 was as follows:

Like Chris, I wish to thank some members for their advice and assistance. Firstly, David Powell who helped me get to grips with the Bridgewebs system and secondly Richard Anscombe who gave me advice with the spreadsheet system, to enable them to run smoothly in tandem. It's a lovely feeling when everything balances! Also, thanks to Richard for approving the accounts and finally, thanks to Hilary for uploading new members and visitors onto the database. With the added Tuesday sessions, there have been quite a number of these.

Regarding last year's accounts, they show an increase in both income and expenditure.

Firstly income:

1. Subscriptions are up 8% due mainly to the new Tuesday members.
2. Table money went up 53% or £4,440 due to increased attendances, the 50 pence increase and the Tuesday sessions (which alone accounted for £2,000).
3. Total income increased by 47.5% or £4,600.

Outgoings increased similarly:

1. Hall rental went up 36% or £1,665 due to the extra Tuesday sessions.
2. Refreshments are up 75% or £1,000 due to more sessions and more members. Fortunately, Wendy's eye for a bargain and bulk buying helped to keep costs down. We have good supplies should we ever get snowed in!
3. Miscellaneous costs of £1,000 were mainly due to training 3 new directors and the purchase of new duplicate boards
4. Total payments by coincidence also increased by 47.5% or £4,570

Extra outgoings are covered by increased income giving a surplus of £220.

The Christmas Party was attended by 46 people who unanimously agreed how nice the catering was and the same company has been booked again for the upcoming Christmas Party. We might have made a profit had I not given away all the prizes in the raffle as 5 bottles of wine were set aside for the bridge afterwards, and therefore I had to dip into the raffle money to pay the winners!

As you can see, the change in club funds increased, although £600 will be paid to charity after the Swiss Pairs next month, so the real increase is around £100.

In view of this, the committee proposes an increase in table money of 50p from September 1st as we need to buy a new dealing machine next year due to the current one showing signs of wear and tear, and this will cost in the region of £4,000. Finally, thank you all for your prompt payments each month which helps to rebuild the bank balance in case of unexpected expenses.

John Hunt (Treasurer)

## **7. Election of Independent Examiner of Accounts**

Chris Clegg proposed a vote of thanks to Richard Anscombe for checking and approving the accounts and proposed his appointment for another year.

Seconded by Bob Kendall. All in favour.

## **8: Subscriptions and Table Money**

The treasurer, John Hunt, proposed that subscriptions remain at £12 from August 1<sup>st</sup>, and that table money increases by 50p per session from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. Non-members visiting the club would pay double (i.e. £7).

The proposal was seconded by Barbara Jackson, and passed unopposed.

## **9: Competitions**

The meeting considered a proposal by John Hemington about competitions, which had been previously circulated to members. The proposal was to revamp the ladder and introduce a new team competition to replace the Burton-Pryor. The possibility of offering prize-money for competitions was also mentioned.

In the course of the discussion, it became clear that members were not happy with the proposed changes in the competitions. Objections included the difficulty of providing a consistent team over a period of several months, and problems arising from having different sections when the total number of tables is relatively small.

It was decided that there will be no change for now, and that the proposal should go back to John, and to the committee, for further consideration.

On the matter of prize money, Don Mitchell proposed the motion that there should be **no** cash prizes for the winners of Farnborough Club competitions, and this motion was passed unopposed.

## **10: Host system**

Sue Parkins submitted a proposal to change the host system, using an arrangement where the host would act as a “matchmaker” for players seeking a partner. This proposal had also been previously circulated to members.

It was clear, in the course of discussion, that most members wished to keep the current system, and Sue gracefully withdrew her proposal.

A further proposal, to amend section 5.3 of the constitution so that people would not be restricted to six attendances as a non-member, was rejected on a show of hands.

However, a proposal to give Hosts a “credit” (i.e., one free game), whether they play or not on their duty night, was also put forward. It was approved by the meeting, with 45 in favour and 3 against.

## **11: AOB**

It was noted that Farnborough Village were undertaking repair for the faulty ceiling light in the Hall.

## **12. Presentation of trophies for 2023-24:**

### **1 Boxwell Cup - Championship Pairs**

J Amor & J Hemington

### **2 Smith Cup - Teams of 4 Championship**

N Inniss, J Hemington, P Jones, S Sypliwczak

### **3 De Winter Cup – Ladies' Pairs**

S Parkins & E Rosta

### **4 Hitch Cup – Men's Pairs**

C Scott & R Manser

### **5 Burton Pryor Cup**

L Kerr, J Hemington, M Collins, R Athwal

### **6 Hopper Cup - Cut in Teams**

J Amor, J Hemington, R Pechey, L Pechey

### **7 Rayner Trophy - Mixed Pairs**

B Featherman & M Hunt

### **8 Poole Fritch**

Mr & Mrs R Kendall

### **9 Jackson Cup - First Wednesday Trophy**

D Hudson

### **10 Rayner Cup - Jackson Cup Runner up**

Tied: M Hunt & J Hunt

### **11 Friday Cup - Friday Pairs**

Tied: C Cooper &  
M Penney

### **12 Friday Ladder**

P Jones & S Sypliwczak

### **13 Lines Trophy - Most Master Points gained**

R Kendall

### **14 Lilian Martin Bowl - Friday cut in Teams**

T Smith

### **15 Hampton Shield - Highest Aggregate Score after adjusted Handicap**

R Kendall

### **16 Haycocks Cup - Beckenham -v- Farnborough**

Farnborough

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

James Foster