

## **FARNHAM AFTERNOON BRIDGE CLUB**

### **AGM Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 1.45 p.m. at Farnham Maltings**

Present: Chairman: Trevor Lawson. Hon Secretary: Lindsay Dennison.

Plus 28 members.

#### **Welcome and apologies.**

Apologies: Sean Lehane, Margaret Dyer, Susan Bussell, Margaret Getting, Rita Milburn, Rosemary Ostime.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and pointed out that the Minutes of the last AGM and accounts were on tables.

#### **1. Minutes of the 2021 AGM**

Minutes of the meeting held in September 2021 were approved unanimously.

Proposed: Oliver Lee. Seconded: Michael Constable.

#### **2. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman said he was pleased that we were able to return to normal play in September and, although numbers are far from those of a few years ago, the number of tables has been gradually increasing (eight tables recently which represents 75% of the membership). Some long standing members have not returned and others may not renew. There are currently about 40 members. The Chairman paid tribute to the other committee members, Lindsay and Shaun for their unfailing support. Shaun has also been website guru. The Christmas party was successful and the food supplied by the Maltings was very acceptable, particularly in quantity. Especial thanks to Toni Fagin for help with the raffle. He also thanked Pauline Banks for yet another year of her matchmaking role for members needing a partner.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Chairman as acting Treasurer said that the accounts in front of the members showed the figures for 2020 and 2021 plus his forecast for 2022. They are simple receipts and payments accounts and do not reflect what expenses may need to be met in a later period out of the income to date.

The accounts for 2020 and 2021 have not yet been audited, partly because, although Jerome Hagen handed over as Treasurer in June last year and Lindsay

has taken over as co-signatory, we have yet to persuade Barclays to accept the change. We think we are nearly there. Meanwhile, Jerome still has the power to operate the account and has graciously been settling the bills as they arise. We owe him a debt of gratitude which the Chairman would like recorded in the Minutes.

In due course the auditor will be asked to certify the accounts for 2020 and 2021.

In 2019 there was a loss of £354. In 2020 there was next to no income as subs were not taken that year; overheads such as insurance were as normal and room hire was paid for the first quarter. That year showed a loss of £767. In 2021 subs were collected from September and the raffle raised £88. Expenses were minimal, mainly overheads and Christmas party prizes as we did not pay for room hire until 2022. The year shows a surplus of £370, but this is an illusion. At the end of the year we had £2,840 in the bank accounts but known outstanding bills have yet to come in.

The forecast for 2022, our first full year of play since 2019, made on the basis of the current membership and subscription rate, shows a deficit of at least £1,300. The reserves can take this for one year, but another would make the club financially unviable.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions arising from his remarks so far. There were none.

The Chairman then pointed out the Club has to raise its income significantly by a combination of much increased membership and a sizeable increase in subscription. The only way to reduce expenses would be a move to cheaper accommodation. This would require, amongst other considerations, finding a landlord who would store the tables and other playing materials for nothing or a modest fee. The Maltings do not charge for this.

A subscription increased to £70 or £75 would reduce, but not eliminate the deficit, by approximately £400-£600.

Comments were then invited from the floor.

As the room hire is approximately £80 per session it was suggested that a cheaper room in the Maltings could be used, but it was agreed that the Long Kiln room is not suitable and the rent is not significantly lower.

A regular raffle and a fundraiser in the Barley Room were suggested. The Chairman pointed out that this would just be getting money from the same members. More members are needed but post Covid fewer people are inclined to go out.

Greater publicity was suggested. The Chairman said that we pay £40 per quarter to be in the Maltings Magazine, and had done so twice. Approaching the Farnham Herald was another possibility.

It was agreed that the Maltings is ideal and that if the club moved out of town fewer people would come.

It was suggested that £70 was not appropriate and £75 would be better and if numbers increased sufficiently it can always be reduced. This was agreed unanimously.

## **5. Appointment of Auditor for 2022 accounts**

Michael Constable agreed to be nominated.

Proposed: Trevor Lawson Seconded: Margaret McCosker.

Carried unanimously.

## **6. Election of Committee**

The current members of the Committee were willing to stand again with Trevor Lawson as Chair and Treasurer, Lindsay Dennison as Secretary and Shaun Lehane as Webmaster. Rosemary Eade, Ian Shanks and Duncan Weir were willing to stand and the Chairman expressed his thanks to them. A full Committee would reduce the load on the others and bring fresh minds to the running of the club. A vote was called to elect all six members.

Proposed: Daphne Battley. Seconded: Jill Shewan

## **7. Any other Business**

Joyce Snell and Dorothy Swan said that they found it difficult to arrange partners as there was little social time during the sessions. The Chairman suggested going from table to table, using Pauline Banks or the website.

Chris Burton proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 2.05 p.m.