

# **Minutes**

## **Hearts of Sussex Bridge Club AGM 2024**

**Meeting held 10 November 2024 & 6.30 pm at Age Concern, Hassocks**

Attended by: Adrian Alexander, Brian Drabble (secretary), Liz McConachie, Margaret Watson, Claire Coghlin, Lesley Minster, Barbara Hephner, Enid Scott, Vincent L'Estrange, Sue Cottrell, Stephen Parnell, David Jaggar, John Drake, Jackie Drake, Richard Begley, Chris Ames, Jenny Morgan, Ken Morgan, Steve Smith, Sue Smith, Annie Edie, Margaret Drake, Len North (Treasurer), Lynda McBeth (membership secretary), Peter Knight (chair), Gwen Knight.

### **1. Welcome by Chairperson**

Peter welcomed everyone to the fourth AGM of the Hearts of Sussex Bridge Club.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Sally Mead, Roger Brindley, Liz Brindley, Ian Macgregor, Tony Chaitow (website Mgr), Roger Hartless, Ann Brooks.

### **3. Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM**

Held 14 November 2023 were accepted: proposed by Ken Morgan, seconded by Vincent L'Estrange and universally approved.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

Peter thought the club had enjoyed another good year and thanked members for their continued support.

Having a nucleus of regular players for six or seven tables each week helps the club to stay solvent.

As always, I would like to thank on your behalf the work done by the committee.

Brian and Len, for keeping us informed and financial sound, Tony for his behind the scene web mastering, and to Lynda for taking up the membership role and for keeping on top of the voucher sales.

Also thanks to all the directors on the Monday and Tuesday sessions.

Here's hoping for another good year ahead.

### **5. Secretary's Report**

Brian gave some statistics regarding members.

	<b>This year</b>	<b>Last year</b>
Total Registered Members	90	97
Members with BBO username	72	77
F2F Members (paid membership)	51	40
Since 01 January number of members played at least once	66	77

Brian thanked Lynda for her efforts as membership secretary and Tony for organising Thursday casual games and helping run the website.

Thursday evening Casual Bridge continues to provide a platform for those wishing to play online but prefer an informal evenings play, or like to play with the Club more than once a week.

Numbers playing have increased slightly and usually we can run two tables, although Robots are often needed to make up a table. New Casual players would be very welcome even if not on a regular basis.

The website is well used - we have had 28,500 hits on our webpages this year.

Thanks to Peter, Vincent, Sue and Margaret for regularly directing on Tuesdays, also for Larry and Chris for covering Mondays whenever I've not been able to Direct on BBO.

We appreciate all their help but there is always room for more Directors or just people who wouldn't mind helping by setting up the computer and Bridgepals occasionally. Particularly helpful because some of our Directors are happy Directing but don't operate the IT. Please let us know if you want to get involved.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Len thanked both the committee and membership for their support and went on to report that our finances are in good shape and that we have increased our cash reserve by around £800.

We have seen a revenue increase in both on-line and Face to Face; which is an encouraging sign. Our F2F membership also increased.

The use of table vouchers continues to work well. My thanks to Lynda McBeth for the collection of table money and vouchers, and the subsequent payment of monies into the bank.

Thanks also to Vincent for the validation of the accounts.

With a strong financial reserve we do have the option of some expenditure. The use of the digital scoring is proving a success, however it has been expressed that a larger screen on the mobile phones would be appreciated. It is intended that we put aside around £500 for the expenditure of larger screen mobiles. There are some on the market at a reasonable price, however we do need to make sure they are correct for our purposes.

Collectively the members of our Club have made a good contribution to charities. In the past we have contributed to Children in Need. However it is felt that the money would be more appreciated by local charities. We will still run our Charity evening(s) and contribute to them from our reserves.

The Bridge away day, has proved popular. It is intended to financially support the next one, whenever that may be.

Going forward our surplus (or deficit) for the 2024/25 will depend on:

1. The number of members playing each week at this venue.
2. The number of members playing on-line and the £ to \$ Exchange rate affecting our monthly commission.
3. Any inflation cost relating to our expenditure.
4. I would also like mention that Lloyds will be changing our bank account to that of a Community account in January 2025. A charge of £4.25 per month will be made, and there will be other charges relating cash and cheques paid into the account. Not expected that this will have a dramatic effect. However the use of Bank Transfer for payment of vouchers is encouraged.

I feel confident that our Club is on a sound financial footing, as we continue to have sufficient numbers playing on Monday & Tuesday, together with a good reserve in the bank. However I'm not sure our surplus this coming year will be as large, and we are more likely to break even. Any change in Membership fee or table money is not envisaged or recommended.

The accounts were adopted without comment.

## **7. Election of Committee for 2024/25**

- a) *Chairman*
- b) *Secretary*
- c) *Treasurer*
- d) *Co-opt Membership Secretary*
- e) *Co-opt Website Manager*

The three officers (Peter Knight, Len North, Brian Drabble) were unanimously elected unopposed.

Lynda Mcbeth (membership secretary) and Tony Chaitow (website manager) were co-opted.

### **8. Elect Account examiner for coming year**

Vincent L'Estrange was willing to undertake this again and was universally approved.

### **9. Any Other Business**

A question was raised about advertising for new members. It was explained we have a monthly entry in the Hassocks Talkabout, we had leaflets at Hassocks on Show open morning and in the past have had an entry in Burgess Hill town magazine. Any other suggestions would be welcome.

### **10. Closure**

The meeting closed at 6.43pm.