**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Hutton Duplicate Bridge Club**

**Held on Monday 31st October 2016 at 7.15pm**

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

The meeting was opened by the acting chairman, Tony French. Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Moorman and Pam Kite.

1. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted and signed.

1. **Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Financial Report.**

Tony presented the treasurer’s report on behalf of the outgoing Treasurer Brenda. He said she had prepared the financial statement for this year but as she is moving out of the area she has also tendered her resignation. There is a surplus again this year of £135.26 (£206.08 - 2014/2015). There are now 48 members. Accounts were accepted - proposed by Eric Field and seconded by John Tolfree.

1. **Chairman’s Report (typed as given).**

I am pleased to report on what I believe has been a successful year for the club. Despite the departure of a number of key and regularly attending members of the club, and the loss of a number of members for health or age related reasons, table numbers have largely been maintained. We actually have more members today than at this time last year *(48 members)* with the standard of the field each Monday up as well (so well done us). Also, although our Club Captain will elaborate I’m sure, I am also pleased to report that we enjoyed a little success in County Competitions this year.

Crucially though the club has been stable and financially viable, even though we have invested in a piece of equipment this year.

We have also started to build the base of the club and, finally, introduced a new session aimed at bring new people into the game and specifically this club.

This and the day to day running of the club is down to a number of people, Brenda & Frans were responsible for a lot of hard work, Linda too and Lorraine who directs most nights so smoothly. Ann who contributes with supplies help and for much admin and general help Sue. Many thanks to all of these people as well as several unnamed who have stepped in on various occasions in one way or another, and of course to each and every member who has given up their time to represent the club in competition or support an event.

As many of you know we’ve also recently canvassed member’s opinion on some ideas and I have a sheet of feedback if anyone would care to see it, there were some interesting results. If I remain as chairman it is my intention to bring to

fruition some initiatives among those in order to grow the club and for it to continue to prosper. The idea will be to attempt to improve the obvious things.

I want members to progress and to wish to represent the club in competition and for us to have success as a club. So mentoring and training, especially for newcomers, is vital. But I would like us to offer more and be perhaps a little different from many bridge clubs. I also want us to have a social side and I want members to feel valued and like they do belong to real a club. I would like players who wish for nothing else than a game of bridge once a week to feel like this is the perfect place to get it, but if you’d like a little more then I’d like you to think that’s available here too. One step at a time, but as I say if I remain chairman then my intention is for the club to move forward and not stagnate.

With this in mind a firm foundation is needed and that starts with a proper constitution. One has been prepared and circulated that the committee would like us to adopt.

A vote was taken and the Constitution as prepared was unanimously accepted.

1. **Director’s Report.**

Lorraine requested prompt attendance and repeated the request to turn over one hand at the end of evening.

1. **Club Captain’s Report.**

Dennis thanked all members who had represented the club at the various events. In particular he congratulated Sandra Fenton and Roger Bacon for winning the Club Pairs. Other events that the club entered were not so successful but there are signs of improvements. Good luck to the club members who have entered the new Friendly League.

He hoped that the Friendly First Wednesday sessions would grow and congratulated Tony on his efforts to bring in new members.

Sandra Fenton suggested putting on a charity event and it was agreed this would be discussed.

1. **Election of Officers.**

It was proposed by Eric, seconded by Sandra Fenton that Tony be confirmed as Chairman and this was agreed unanimously.

John Rayment and Julian Beard who had been co-opted onto the committee were proposed by Eric Field, seconded by David Warren.

Julian agreed to take on the role of Treasurer and Linda and Dennis agreed to continue as Secretary and Club Captain.

All were unanimously elected.

1. **AOB.**

Tony said the Christmas party night will be on Monday 19th December – as usual members will be free but non-members will pay table money. Also an informal Indian meal was suggested as a club social and subsequently agreed for 3rd December (please see Sue).

Betty Simpson asked about the number of Sims and was told that next year the club would run 4 EBU and the Children in Need event.

There being no further matters Tony thanked the 32 members present and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.