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

**Held on Monday 30th October 2017 at 7.15pm**

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

The meeting was opened and everyone welcomed by the chairman, Tony French. Apologies for absence had been received from Angela Fenton and Linda Fleet.

1. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted and signed.

1. **Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Financial Report.**

The Treasurer, Julian Beard, presented the report showing a £569.99 loss. He referred to the notes on the report showing the reason for the loss as entirely attributable to the purchase of equipment and related consumables. He stated his belief that the club remained financially stable taking into account the new Wednesday sessions, an associated increase in membership and that the club still had around £1900 on deposit.

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

Once again I am very pleased to report on what I believe has been a very successful year for the club.

Some of the ideas we had have been introduced; Wednesday sessions have been expanded so members now have the opportunity to play twice a week with us, the first session of each month remains newcomer focused. Mentoring for our less experienced members has been introduced and well received. We have enjoyed 3 social dinner trips and a highly successful 1st club holiday – which did produce a modest profit and a list of people who wish to join us if we do it again.

We have also upgraded our website, scoring program and equipment including most notably the addition of a Duplimate dealing machine enabling pre-dealt boards and on-line hand records with analysis for every session we run.

Sadly a number of key and regularly attending members of the club have left the area and we have lost a number of members for health reasons. But despite this table numbers have seen a gradual increase and we currently have 61 members which is 13 more than at this time last year.

Again as a club we have enjoyed a little success at county level, participated in the Friendly League and enjoyed several mentions on the county website. One of these talked of us as a thriving club – I think that is now true although there is still much to be done and room for improvement.

We have lots of ideas and ambition but we rely on your support and that of a number of key people. John, Julian and Linda give up their time behind the scenes, Lorraine continues to direct on Mondays in a perfectly non-intimidating manner which upholds the spirit of the club and now Alaric has fulfilled the same role in exactly the same way on many Wednesdays. Alaric’s experience is vital to me as an inexperienced chairman and we are delighted to say he has agreed to join our committee further cementing our two nights and establishing the integration of former St. Edith’s players.

I sincerely thank these people, but there are a number of others. Sue is a huge help to me and wonderfully supportive, her cup cakes are also superb, and Dorothy, Alaric’s better half and Wednesday regular, is also a massive help. These two ladies deserve special praise for their help. It is also lovely to see Neina and John Tumbridge bringing in cake or goodies, I really do feel we are creating a warm and friendly atmosphere in which to enjoy bridge.

I am also grateful for Dennis’s continued support as club captain, dealing with the very difficult task of selecting teams and generally offering advice behind the scenes.

There are yet more. Coral and Jon were very supportive in relation to our recent holiday, Coral’s quiz was a fun feature and Jon is frequently generally helpful during sessions. Angela often does small jobs that save us time and is a very supportive member and Dave Warren, Coral and Dennis have all undertaken or offered to undertake mentoring for the club.

As the club grows so does the workload especially if we want to introduce teaching, special events and ideas that we have in order to offer members more.

So to recap, 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 in support of an event.

If I am re-elected my intention is to move the club forward and improve it in any way I am able, I am not short of ideas, but I could use more help.

In closing I would ask that you continue to support your club, help us and/or spread the word.

1. **Director’s Report.**

Lorraine Butler again requested prompt attendance, other than that she said that directing had given her no great concerns and she remarked on the friendly nature of the club currently. Tony French did reiterate the timekeeping point however, stressing the late arrivals had a big impact on finishing times especially on Wednesdays where smaller table numbers and member requirements were particularly awkward.

1. **Club Captain’s Report.**

Dennis gave a big thank you to all members who had given up their spare time to represent the club in numerous competitions. Without those people the club would not have been so well represented.

He said this year we have had a number of successes which could have been more had we been able to field our strongest teams each time. Last minute changes and non-availability of players limited our performances, but the future looks bright.

This year the club competed in five county events:

* **The Fletcher** (teams of 8)

We came 7th of 11, which is a respectable result considering we had three inexperienced partnerships. Hopefully next year we will be able to field settled pairs and see better results.

* **Cup for Clubs** (teams of 4)

A big thank you to Tara and Jagdish who along with Betty and Julian took their first step to represent the club in this county competition. A tough field in which they performed admirably.

* **The Cornell Trophy** (teams of 4)

Held in February of each year the winning club then goes forward to represent Essex in the ‘Garden Cities’ competition (a national EBU competition). A good performance for both our A and B teams saw both finish mid table in a large field, full of promise for next year.

* **Club Pairs**

Many congratulations to Coral Fallon and Jon Ward on winning this event and to Theo Todman and Colin Scott on their 3rd place. This meant we were the winning club.

* **Friendly League** (team of 4)

A highly respectable mid table finish for our team captained by John Rayment. Members through the season were June Everett, Anne Davis, Christine Everard, Stephanie Withers and John Tolfree.

Also many thanks to Tony who has put a lot of effort into developing grass roots bridge and running the Wednesday sessions with the 1st Wednesday of each month dedicated to a friendly atmosphere for beginners/novices. An excellent platform for development and growth, many thanks Tony and long may it continue.

In addition to the county team events, we wish to encourage members to have a go at the EBU knock out team events, especially the ‘National Inter Club Knock Out’ (NICKO), Any number of teams (T4) can enter to represent their club. This year we have not entered a team but three years ago we did reach the last 32 in the country which was an excellent result. The club would like to enter at least one team next year.

Team selection is never easy and always complex with priority given to established partnerships and ability. This year has proved to be particularly difficult with so many last minute changes.

Our next big county event is the Cornell on 18th February and we’ll be looking to announce teams by the end of January, please support your club.

Well done to everyone and a special thank you to all those supporting the club, I look forward to the challenges of 2018 with high hopes.

1. **Election of Officers.**

The current committee stood down and Dennis Valtisiaris took the chair.

All of the outgoing committee were subsequently unanimously re-elected:

**Tony French** – Chairman

**Linda Fleet** – Secretary

**Julian Beard** – Treasurer

**John Rayment** - Member (Partner Finder)

In addition **Alaric Cundy** was elected as a member of the committee having been proposed by John Tumbridge and seconded by Sue French.

In was also announced that the support team including Dennis Valtisiaris as Club Captain would remain in place.

1. **AOB.**

Tony remarked on Dennis’s report most notably the club’s fantastic performance in the Club Pairs; we have provided the winning pair for 4 of the last 5 years, the 2nd place pair once and the 3rd placed pair once. We have been the winning club for the last two years (earning 24 packs of cards as a prize). Our winning pairs are three different pairs: Jon Ward with Coral Fallon, Roger Bacon with Sandra Fenton and Dave Brace with Eric Field (twice), an outstanding performance.

Tony reported that the club had received an offer to move the Monday night ‘club’ (sessions) to Barleylands and he wondered what the general view of the membership was. There was a brief discussion which revealed no support for the idea which would fragment the club.

Tony then said the club would continue to run 4 EBU Sims and the CiN Sims on Mondays as previously. He also said we were considering adding a couple of Sims events to the Wednesday schedule.

It was also confirmed that this year’s Christmas party night will be on Monday 18th December – as usual members will be free but non-members will pay table normal money. All pairs should bring one savoury and one sweet plate between them plus a glass each for wine. There may also be another social meal in early December if there was enough interest and schedules permit.

Sheila Vincent warmly thanked Tony & Sue for their efforts following which Tony closed thanked the 30 members and 2 guests present and closed the meeting at 7.38pm.