

KELVIN MALONE BRIDGE CENTRE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2024: 7.00 pm

Present

Joan Baird, Mary Bayliss, Roy Blair, Derek Cannell, Robert Caves, John Conlon, Helen Cole, Harold Curran, Irene Donaldson, Anne Fitzpatrick, Diane Greenwood, Chris Hamill, Alan Hill, Ken Irwin, Norma Irwin, Mary Johnston. Calvin Jones, Rosemary Kilpatrick, David Leeman, Drew Lindsay, Stan Lowe, Freda McDonald, Irene McQueen, Sandi Millership, Joy Montgomery, Irene Orr, David Rowan, Valerie Russell, Bill Scott, Liz Scott, Jean White, Joan Whiteside.

Apologies

Christine Adams, Lesley Agar, Margaret Bleakley, May Brennan, Rosemary Cannell, Kate Cassidy, John Forsyth, Joe Gunning, Gerry Henry, Heather Hill, Eric Lesage, Marilyn Humphrey, Stephanie Irwin, Colin Jeffries, Suzy Jeffries, Eleanor Jones, Margaret Kelly, Sandra Lowry, Alan McKay, Catherine McKay, G McKeown, Lyn Morrison, Sandra Muldrew, Esme Nicolls, Ian Noad, Moranne Noad, Diana Patterson, Toni Sproule, Sally Stevenson, Liz Thomas, Gareth Taylor-Winter, Rosemary Whittle

In Attendance

Sarah Witchell (Company Secretary)

Welcome

Welcome everyone to our AGM. It is good to see you all and we will keep business as brief as possible so that bridge starts on time.

I ask you to reflect for a few moments on the members who have passed on during the year. I will not name them all but I will mention one past Chairman, Melvyn Warnock who died peacefully last Thursday after a long illness. Melvyn chaired the Board in 2007 and 2008. He was an enthusiastic Chairman and a keen bridge player. I am pleased to have our company secretary, Sarah Witchell, with us this evening. Welcome to you, Sarah and I know you will keep us all in order!

Minutes of the 2019 AGM

These had been posted on the Club website and spare copies were available at the AGM for those who had not previously accessed them. They were agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting (proposed by Roy Blair; seconded by Mary Johnston) and duly signed off as such.

Chair's Report

I will repeat my welcome to you and thank you for the support you have given to KM over the past year.

When I was elected to the Chair in 2018 I thought 2 years, maybe 3 will be my term of duty. None of us could have predicted what would happen early 2020 and as a result my imagined 3 years max has doubled to 6 years in office. However I'm pleased to report that I have enjoyed every one of those

years but equally delighted to be standing down and relaxing.

The Lockdown years brought a major change to the Bridge world. We now have so many of our members capable of playing on line and enjoying those sessions which kept us all in touch. Our TDs Joan Baird, David Leeman, Alan Hill and myself continue to run these sessions Tuesday and Saturday evenings because we have many playing on these nights who are not Kelvin members, some not even from N. I. This gives a small but steady income to boost our finances. Roberta Madill and Mary Crawford did run afternoon BBO sessions for several years and we really appreciated this. During Lockdown I helped organise a few matches against English Clubs. We fielded about 32 players for each match and we won!

Although we are not back to the numbers we had playing before lock down, the trend is upwards and this is encouraging. The increase in sessions means we need 7 TDs / tablet operators each week. Mary, Penny and Barbara have joined our scoring team, thanks ladies, but we could do with a few more volunteers to learn the systems. Thanks to Diana Paterson who works with me setting the rotas, 3 months at a time, to cover all our events. On our return to normality we had another enjoyable evening, hosting a large group of American visitors. It was interesting, and enlightening, to play against their system. In a similar vein, I'm pleased to report that we have been able to hold our social events again. Children in Need in November when our soup and sandwich lunch always raises several hundred pounds for this Charity. We had our big Christmas dinner party in December, 60 members enjoyed this evening and just last weekend we had 34 members attending the Summer BBQ. All these events take a lot of work and as well as our willing Board members we have great support from other members. At this point I have to mention and thank Pat Braden (or Pavola Pat to her friends) who never fails to produce very interesting and delicious dishes for our parties.

Diana Patterson, our capable Competition Secretary, arranged a programme of Club competitions. Noreen Jack trophy in November, the Doreen Spence Trophy, played on 4 alternate Thursday evenings. Heather Hill was the overall winner of the trophy and a generous prize donated by Irene Orr and her family. We had an Individual event and a Junior/ Senior competition. I introduced a " Mix and Mingle" evening which was different and very well received. I hope to repeat this format soon.

Congratulations to all the winners. Diana has another full competition programme planned for this season so please make an effort to support at least one of these events. Gerry Henry continues to up date our website and keep us well informed of events and Club news, so no excuses for not joining in. Thank you both, Diana and Gerry.

The Buildings committee have recruited Robert Caves who is now frequently seen around the Club carrying his tool box. I haven't actually seen him open it but I'm sure that will happen soon. Thanks to Colin, David, Derek and Robert who work hard on this committee.

We have 2 dealing teams led by Colin. Alan McKay is learning to deal our boards, thanks Alan. There is room for more helpers if you are interested and

thanks again to Colin and his dealers.

I have been collating the Master Points, for my sins, and would really welcome some support with this. I am happy with entering the points each week but I have very little spreadsheet knowledge if a hitch occurs. I have to thank Wayne Sommerville who has been a great support and guide through my learning curve. However Wayne is not a KM member and it would be great if some member could help.

I must also thank Hilary and John Ferguson for teaching bridge classes each week. These classes will restart at end of September, details will be on our website.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes to keep Kelvin up to date and functioning smoothly. I thank all those already helping and, again, encourage a few more to volunteer.

My final item and maybe the biggest, is the arrival in Heron Road of St Colmcille's Bridge Club. They will be renting and using our rooms every Thursday to run their own sessions, using their own dealt hands and doing their own scoring. On Tuesday evening both Clubs will play together and once the prize monies have been sorted the remaining table money will be split equally between both Clubs. Our first Tuesday session was last week when we had 13 tables playing. It was so good to have a full room and the buzz and chat were great. We sincerely hope they will be happy in their new premises and it means that our building is being used every week day.

Sarah will conduct the election of new Board members shortly.

I must sincerely thank all the members of our present Board for their work and support over my 6 years. They have been actively involved throughout each year and their input has been invaluable. Thanks to Rosemary for all her secretarial work and for recording our minutes accurately. Thanks to Joan for looking after our finances efficiently. Sincere thanks to these two ladies for their friendship and advice over my time in office.

I would like to congratulate Diane Greenwood, a member of our Board, who now holds the post as Chair of the NIBU and also congratulations to Heather Hill, a KM member for many years, who is the incoming president of the IBU. Every good wish to these two ladies for their time ahead.

And a final thanks, as always, to my husband Ken, soup maker and BBQ chef extraordinaire, for keeping us all well fed.

I will now hand over to Joan for the Financial report.

Treasurer's Report

Again we had a positive report for the financial year. Our trading profit, excluding donations, has increased from the previous year. All income headings have increased except for BBO income and correspondingly all expenditure relating to Face to Face bridge has increased which is only to be expected. As mentioned in my report last year Heat and Light costs have reduced as a result of overpayments in the previous years and insurance costs increased by 12.9% and increased again for the current year by 5.5%, a less significant increase which hopefully signals that the cost of COVID for the insurance industry is levelling out.

Membership – we ended the 2023/24 financial year with 181 members, For the current financial year 17members have not renewed however, we have 12 new members. Hopefully, with Hilary and John Ferguson continuing their lessons we will recruit more new members.

I would like to thank Ian Lindsay once again for drawing up our Financial Statements which he has done for many years on a voluntary basis. Unfortunately, he is unable to attend tonight but the committee would like to thank Ian for his diligence and support.

Thank you for listening. If you have any questions or would like clarification on information in the financial reports please feel free to ask now

Election of Officers and Trustees

There being no questions regarding the financial statements the Chair handed the meeting proceedings to Sarah Witchell for the election of the officers and trustees.

Board Members

Ten board members (Joan Baird, Diana Patterson, John Forsythe, Diane Greenwood, Alan Hill, Mary Johnston, Alan McKay, Jean White, and Rosemary Whittlely) were willing to stand for re-election, with two members (Norma Irwin and Rosemary Kilpatrick) indicating their wish to standdown. There were two nominations for the vacancies, Roy Blair and Liz Scott. The Constitution allows for all members of the Board to be proposed and seconded as a group. The election of all Board members was proposed by Joy Montgomery and seconded by Derek Cannell.

Officers

The holders of two of the honorary posts (Norma Irwin as Chair and Rosemary Kilpatrick as Secretary) had already served the maximum of eight consecutive years and were standing down. Roy Blair had agreed to take on the role of Chair and Liz Scott had agreed to take on the role of Secretary. Joan Baird was continuing as Treasurer. Joan had also served the maximum of eight consecutive years but it was considered to be in the interests of the club for her to stand for a further term. There being no objection to this the election of the Chair (Roy Blair,) Secretary (Liz Scott) and Treasurer (Joan Baird) was proposed and seconded as a group. (Proposed by Sandie Millership and seconded by Helen Cole.)

The Constitution allows for extra members to be co-opted to the Board and it was suggested that with two officers standing down at the same time it would be helpful to have one of these officers remain on the Board for a short period and Rosemary Kilpatrick had agreed to be cop-opted (proposed by Norma Irwin and seconded by Derek Cannell).

Sarah Witchell congratulated the Board on their election, and then handed the business back to Roy Blair as the new Chair.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ian Lindsay was appointed as the Independent Examiner. Proposed by Alan Hill and seconded by Helen Cole.

Any Other Business

The Chair invited questions or comments from the floor. Harold Curran commented that the table money was very low and had not been increased for some considerable time. Joan Baird responded that we are holding our own. Roy Blair pointed out that on BBO clubs in the South pay 3\$ while we only pay 2\$. A show of hands indicated that the majority of people at the AGM would be in favour of putting the table money up to £3. This matter to be put on the Agenda of the next Board meeting.

Roy Blair thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____