

KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB

Notes of Annual General Meeting held on 30 January 2018

Present: Graham Daniel (Chair), Howard Davies, Ann Bawdon, Jean Bills, Tony Bowler, Isy Conner, Patti Craven-Wilkinson, Salma Daniel, Pauline Deal, Anya Frizell, Jo Hatcliffe, Julie Holder, Judith James, Rosey Knifton, Tim Mather, Muriel Renfrew, Norman Renfrew, Joan Roper, Betty Smithson, Sylvia Stokes, Carolyn Waite, Ann Yearsley, Terry Yearsley

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Jacky Baker, Bryan Brice, Sue Brice, Patrick Cartwright, John Cockram, Trevor Davies, John Deal, Patricia Ewing, Mike Fearon, Sylvia Fearon, Jill Ford, Jenny Gostlin, Mark Gostlin, Liz Hale, Derek Hole, Glenda Horner, Jennifer Kinloch, Sue Lovell, Daphne Patrick, Joe Patrick, Michael Whittaker, Sue Wilson
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – Unanimously accepted by all present.
3. **Matters Arising** – None.
4. **Chairman's Report** – Attached.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Financial statement attached.
 - (i) Questions were raised on what EBU P2P Fees were and what charity donations had been made; both addressed to everyone's satisfaction by Howard.
 - (ii) Howard then explained that, as his financial statement showed, the purchase cost of the BridgeTabs equipment had significantly reduced our reserves and that these now needed to be built back up, primarily to cover longer-term replacement costs. He proposed that we increase our annual membership fees from £5 to £10 this year and explained that, if we continued to see the average table numbers we'd experienced in the latter half of last year, there was a good chance we could put them back down next year.

The treasurer's report and increase in membership fees were accepted; proposed by Graham Daniel, seconded by Pauline Deal.

6. **Election of Officers & Committee Members** –

- (i) Howard explained that Graham was the only nominee for the position of Chairman and that, as he was willing to continue in this role, he should be elected to do so.
- (ii) Graham stated that four of the current committee members (Joe Patrick, Patricia Ewing, Salma Daniel and Sylvia Stokes) had decided to step down but that the other five were willing to stand for re-election. There were three nominations for new members and, as that brought us to the total of eight required by our constitution, they were all elected or re-elected, as follows:

Graham Daniel, Chairman – proposed by Salma Daniel, seconded by Judith James
Daphne Patrick, President – proposed by Joan Roper, seconded by Tony Bowler
Howard Davies, Treasurer – proposed by Jean Bills, seconded by Judith James
Liz Hale – proposed by Tim Mather, seconded by Joan Roper
Tony Bowler – proposed by Tim Mather, seconded by Joan Roper
John Cockram – proposed by Patrick Cartwright, seconded by Howard Davies
Tim Mather - proposed by Tony Bowler, seconded by Howard Davies

Carolyn Waite – proposed by Tim Mather, seconded by Judith James

Graham further stated that, with Joe's resignation, we were temporarily without a club secretary, but that that was something the new committee would resolve at the earliest opportunity.

7. Matters Raised by Members – None.

8. Any Other Business –

- (i) Training – Graham stated that, whilst we would have one of our established before-play training sessions at the beginning of February, we hoped to soon put in place a regular programme of two-hour sessions – and that these might, as we progressed discussion on a local club cluster, be opened up to members of other clubs. The significant majority of opinions received following his recent mailing – and from the floor of the meeting – were in support of this plan and also accepting of the need for there to be a fee to cover costs. Graham further stated that training was a particular interest of John Cockram's and that he expected John to take a significant role in putting the programme in place. Carolyn requested that we consider having our new sessions at different times on different days of the week so as to increase the chances that everyone who was interested might be able to make at least some of the sessions.
- (ii) Hand Analysis - Graham stated that opinions on this subject from the recent 'survey' were far more divided, with some totally indifferent through to others who'd be happy to pay a modest amount to get more and many not fully aware of what was available now. It was agreed that Graham would investigate further what was available and could be trialled for a period of time without cost – and that some guidance on using whatever we had was an essential prerequisite.
- (iii) Charity Events – Another subject on which opinions were divided, with many people not realising (perhaps because our evening's play is no different to usual) that we had taken part in two charity events in the past. The majority opinion (from survey responses and the floor of the meeting) was that there would be more support for a charity that people recognised, whether that be local or national, although Judith believed that unnecessary. Pauline suggested we might look at running an occasional event of our own in support of a charity of our choice.
- (iv) Setup Rota – Sylvia explained that, far more often than not, Daphne and Joe had (at their insistence) set the hall and kitchen up for the evening's play over much of the life of the club. It's no longer practical for them to do this and Sylvia proposed that a rota should be put in place for club members to do it. One of Graham, Howard or Tony would always be there (to set up the BridgeTab equipment) and they would collect the key, open up and guide those on the rota in what needed doing and where things were. It was understood and accepted that some members would be unable to participate in the rota for a variety of totally valid, understandable reasons. There was broad acceptance of this suggestion and Sylvia will now develop it further.

KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB – Chairman's Report 2017

The last year has been another busy one for your committee, with progress on lots of things, inevitably one or two little glitches along the way but, overall, it's definitely been a positive year in the continued growth and development of the Kingston Seymour Bridge Club – as I keep saying, YOUR club.

Let's start a year ago, when I told you at the last AGM, of my grandiose plans to spend lots of money on some hand generation, dealing and scoring equipment. I told you I had my case ready to present to the EBU as soon as they announced (as I'd believed they would) their next round of grant aid. They did announce that in early April and our request was the first on the desk of their General Manager.

We were granted funds of £650 against a purchase cost approaching £1400 (around 45%), ordered the equipment almost immediately and went live with it at the end of May.

I think it's fair to say (shout out if you disagree!) that we've found the system intuitively easy for the players to use and, with a little experience and one or two mistakes, easy to set up before play – but the tablets are susceptible to what I call 'operator malfunction', so learning how to correct those user errors has been a key part of our learning curve.

You'll have seen that MOST weeks we can display the results on our laptop within moments of the last table finishing their last board and then, if the village hall's internet connection is working, publish them on the club website before you get home – with all the technicolour detail (for those who want to examine how they might have done better) of what the hands were, who bid what, what card was selected for the opening lead and how many tricks were made at each of the tables.

We also, along the way, replaced the ancient folding boards that Pauline Deal rightly pointed out last year were rather past their 'sell-by date' and we introduced a 'find a partner' facility. I believe that, with some human monitoring, that's worked well on a number of occasions; I'd just ask you all, if you do use it, to go back in and remove your request if you do find a partner.

One thing from the last AGM we have failed to deliver is a regular handicap competition, giving those players who're usually not as near the top of the results table as they'd like to be a chance to see that they are on the up. Quite simply, that's down to not being able to do everything and the need to find an acceptable methodology for establishing the handicap. It is firmly on the radar for this year, I'm still committed to it – so do watch this space!

Our membership list has grown, with 10 new folk joining us during the year – but, inevitably, some who've dropped by the wayside. Table numbers have also increased, from an average under 5.5 in the last six months of 2016 to just over 7 in the last six months of 2017. That's brought its own problems, as we thought eight tablets would be enough when we bought the BridgeTab system (we'd only twice ever had seven tables) but then, in July, we had eight tables and we've since had eight-and-a-half or nine on no less than six occasions. We bought two more tablets, a few more bidding boxes and we're now geared up for ten tables in all respects except one – and that's that we only have nine physical tables. There is another one which matches the ones we have in the skittle alley and we can have that moved in here IF we can find one to replace it in there – so, if anyone can find something similar (and a roughly similar size is good enough) gathering dust at home, or spot one in a charity shop or a skip, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

The club's first season in the SCBA's County League went well with our team finishing a very creditable equal third, missing out on promotion by just one place. We're in the competition again this year (the season runs from September to April) and are currently fourth in the third division – in the hunt again for promotion. It would be great to see more of our members taking part in this or other competitions; there's no pressure, we do play for enjoyment as well as to win and we could field a second team in the County League next season if there were enough people up for the challenge and for a few fun evenings! Tricia's the team captain, so just talk to her and I know she'll be delighted to tell you more.

So, what are our primary plans for the coming year? Absolutely nothing on the scale of acquiring and implementing the tablets sounds good to me – but consolidating everything we've achieved in the last couple of years and, of course, getting that handicap competition in place are important. There's also a keen desire to offer better training opportunities for our members and we're hoping to deliver that on the back of initiatives from the Somerset Association (the SCBA) who're doing a lot to improve communication with the clubs and offer training and events at many levels.

There will be more specific discussion on training in an AOB item at the end of our agenda.

Our relationship with the Somerset Association has developed strongly; I was invited to talk on how our club had developed at an event their new chairman put in place in November for representatives of all the clubs in the county. Out of that, there's a big push on getting new players into the game (and they've secured some lotto funding to help with that) and to form clusters of clubs which are geographically close to one another to do things like organising training and assisted play sessions for improvers and holding friendly inter-club competitions. I've been asked to lead the creation of a cluster in our part of North Somerset and we're expecting that to include the Nailsea, Clevedon & Portishead, Backwell and Yatton clubs as well as ourselves and any other local groups or social bridge players we can identify and interest. There's a kick-off meeting planned for February, there's lots of enthusiasm to get it going quickly and more information will hopefully follow very soon.

In conclusion; it's been another successful year with every reason to feel positive going forward as well as to celebrate the enormous amount we've achieved – and I must give thanks for their part in getting us there to all my colleagues on the committee. If you're not sure who they are, there's Tricia, Daphne, Joe, Liz, Sylvia, Salma, Howard and Tony who've all made important contributions.

Apart from Tony, who joined us just a year ago, that team's been in place for more than two-and-a-half hard-working years, since we first affiliated to the EBU – so I have every sympathy with the four of them (Sylvia, Tricia, Salma and Joe) who've decided to step down and make way for new blood. Our thanks go to all of them, but perhaps particularly to Joe, who's been around and provided great support since the club was nothing more than a twinkle in Daphne's eye. He's well overdue the chance to sit back and hopefully enjoy his bridge for many years to come, and we wish him all the best in that. Could I ask you all please to show your gratitude to all the committee in the usual way.

So, that's it from me and time to hand over to Howard for the Treasurer's report – without the threat I closed with last year that I wanted to spend all of his money!

KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2017

	----- 2016 -----		----- 2017 -----
INCOME			
Membership Fees	£233.00		£258.00
Table Money	£2,015.00		£2,548.00
Grants & Donations			£665.00
Total Income	<u>£2,248.00</u>		<u>£3,471.00</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Hall Fees	£1,062.00		£1,138.50
EBU Affiliation	£35.00		£36.00
EBU P2P Fees	£300.74		£453.60
EBU - Club Insurance			£63.50
Bridgewebs Licence (2018)	£80.00		£40.00
Bridgetabs Equipment			£1,486.32
Scorebridge	£13.00		£45.00
Competition Entry	£14.00		£45.00
Course Fees and Booklets	£79.62		£28.00
Equipment & Stationery	£257.82		£334.68
Charity Donations	£65.00		£65.00
Xmas Event	£28.25		£50.89
Refreshments	£33.91		£93.50
Total Expenditure	<u>£1,969.34</u>		<u>£3,879.99</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>£278.66</u>		<u>-£408.99</u>
Accumulated Funds			
Balance as at 31.12.2015	£307.21	Balance as at 31.12.2016	£585.87
Surplus/Deficit for the year	£278.66	Surplus/Deficit for the year	-£408.99
Balance at 31.12.2016	<u>£585.87</u>	Balance at 31.12.2017	<u>£176.88</u>
Represented by :-			
Bank Account	£528.80	Bank Account	£156.15
Cash in Hand	£57.07	Cash in Hand	£20.73
	<u>£585.87</u>		<u>£176.88</u>

