

KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB

Notes of Annual General Meeting held on 29 January 2019

Present: Graham Daniel (Chair), Howard Davies, Jean Bills, Tony Bowler, Patrick Cartwright, John Cockram, Patti Craven-Wilkinson, Salma Daniel, Mike Fearon, Sylvia Fearon, Liz Hale, Jo Hatcliffe, Julie Holder, Rosey Knifton, Tim Mather, John Pady, Daphne Patrick, Joe Patrick, Joan Roper, David Sands, Sandra Sharp, Carolyn Waite, Andrew Weller, Christine Weller, Pauline Wilding, Ann Yearsley, Terry Yearsley (27)

The meeting opened with a short silence in memory of Isabel Conner, a long-standing member who had recently passed away.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Ann Bawdon, Bryan Brice, Sue Brice, Roger Calderbank, Brian Cherry, Patricia Ewing, Jill Ford, Glenda Horner, Judith James, Jackie Madill, Muriel Renfrew, Norman Renfrew, Sylvia Stokes, Derek Sutton (14)
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) Howard explained that there had not been a huge leap in expenditure this year in contrast to 2017 when money had been spent on new bridge tablets, though some money had been spent on new boards and equipment. He reported that the club's finances were in a much stronger position at the end of 2018 than in 2017 with a surplus of just over £1000.
 - (ii) Howard went on to say that the committee had agreed that the annual member's fee should remain at £10 for this year so that a healthy reserve could be built up but that if the financial position remained strong he would consider reducing it in the future. In the meantime Howard's proposal was to move the surplus to a linked reserve savings account which would accrue interest albeit at a modest level.

The treasurer's report was accepted; proposed by Liz Hale, seconded by John Cockram.

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) All the present committee members were willing to continue serving the club and there were no new nominations to join or challenge existing members. The only change in roles was that Tim Mather had put himself forward as Secretary. The committee members were therefore re-elected, as follows:

Graham Daniel, Chairman – proposed by Tony Bowler, seconded by Howard Davies
Daphne Patrick, President – proposed by Joe Patrick, seconded by Graham Daniel
Tim Mather, Secretary – proposed by Tony Bowler, seconded by John Cockram

Howard Davies, Treasurer – proposed by Sylvia Stokes, seconded by Julie Holder
Liz Hale, Competition Secretary – proposed by Sylvia Stokes, seconded by Howard Davies
John Cockram, Training Officer – proposed by Graham Daniel, seconded by Salma Daniel
Tony Bowler – proposed by Tim Mather, seconded by Howard Davies
Carolyn Waite – proposed by Patti Craven-Wilkinson, seconded by Ann Yearsley

7. Members Questionnaire –

Howard stated that, towards the end of last year, he had sent a questionnaire to all members in order to ascertain their views on how the Tuesday club night should be run and to find out if the members wanted to make any changes to the current format. He then gave a summary of the findings:

- (i) There had been an 80% response rate.
- (ii) There had been a very encouraging response from members in supporting the club and highlighting that it was perceived as a friendly and welcoming club.
- (iii) The vast majority of responses indicated that they wanted the format of the club night to remain unchanged in terms of timings, retaining tea break, and number of boards in an evening. The only point of interest concerned the number of boards to be played each round, with a fairly even split of members wanting either 2 or 3 boards per round – but with the vast majority of members wanting a 2 board round when there was a half table.
- (iv) In light of the above findings Howard went on to say that in future on a Tuesday evening club night 3 boards per round might be played when there is a full number of tables.

8. Matters Raised by Members – None.

KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB – Chairman's Report 2018

Good evening, thank you all for coming – to YOUR club's annual general meeting.

This is my third chairman's report, following our first formal general meeting a few months after we affiliated to the EBU in 2015. I always seem to say it's been a busy year and, whilst a little less frenetic than 2017, this last year has kept us on our toes as well.

In 2017, we had the major effort (and expenditure!) associated with the purchase and implementation of our tablet scoring system. That's pretty stable now, with problems being very rare beyond scores needing to be corrected – and they're more often than not down to what I call operator malfunction and easily put right. I think everyone would agree that the benefits of the system are clear.

The Nailsea club now use our tablets (connected to their own laptop computer for their Thursday club evenings) and pay us a quarterly fee for that. Similarly, after years of laboriously hand-dealing our boards, we took up a kind offer from Jenny and Mark Gostlin to use the Clevedon & Portishead club's dealing machine and pay them a quarterly fee, which is largely offset by what Nailsea pay us. So, we have more effort moving boards and tablets around but that's significantly less than the past effort a small number of us suffered in all that dealing by hand!

Moving on, our membership list has continued to grow. We closed the year on 56 members, which isn't large by comparison to many other clubs, but we have an exceptionally high percentage who play regularly – very few you'd be surprised to see on any one club evening. It's interesting to note that the EBU and Somerset Association have initiatives to encourage more people into the game, but our problem is rather more about 'coping with growth' than about finding more members.

Table numbers have continued to increase. Our average in 2016 was just 4.9 tables, growing to 6.2 in 2017 and then 7.5 last year. We've regularly had eight or nine tables and have had ten three times in the last six months. Consequently, having geared up for ten tables a year or so ago, we're now in the process of gearing up for twelve, with two more tablets already on order. Physical tables were our problem a year ago, but Carolyn identified one in a charity shop which we bought and that's now in the skittle alley, releasing the tenth matching table we now have in here. On top of that, John's kindly arranged for us to 'look after' two of the SCBA's folding tables, which we can pull out of the cupboard if they're needed.

I should emphasise that your committee's view is that the club's a comfortable size; we don't want to grow much beyond where we are but equally don't want to turn members away if more of them, and maybe a visitor or two, do turn up on the same evening!

Other things of note in 2018 include the excellent series of training sessions John ran, with help from Martin Holcombe. An average of nearly 20 people attended the six sessions we held last year, and we already have the first one planned for 2019 on Monday of next week, 4 February. There's also the FREE seminar, funded by the SCBA and taught by Caroline Macpherson at the Ring O'Bells in Nailsea on Saturday, 16 February. Please think about booking on both of them.

Our plans (with the SCBA's encouragement and support) to develop a cluster of clubs working together have progressed, albeit quite slowly, and we held a friendly inter-club teams event at the Ship Inn in

Portishead in July, with ten teams drawn from the Nailsea, Clevedon & Portishead, Backwell, Yatton and Chew Valley clubs as well as our own. It provided a great opportunity for players with little or no experience of playing outside their home club to spread their wings and give it a go. Some were paired with more-experienced partners and I believe it's fair to say they all enjoyed the afternoon and learnt from the experience – as well as enjoying the free tea and cake kindly paid for by the SCBA!

That opportunity for less-experienced players to spread their wings has continued into this season's County League with a second team being fielded in a new, additional division. Our established team finished in a very creditable fourth place in their table last season and, whilst neither of our teams are yet setting the world alight this season, there's still plenty to play for – and I believe most of the people I've encouraged to put their toes in the water have enjoyed it!

We had a great turnout for our heat of the Children in Need simultaneous pairs event in November and contributed £195 to this very worthy charity. We'll be doing it again next November and are playing next week in the Michael Coda event organised by the SCBA, this year in aid of the Penny Brohn centre just down the road in Pill. Please come along and give your support.

We've held regular handicap events, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, 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're on the up. Our problem in getting these handicap events going was quite simply the need to find an acceptable methodology for establishing the handicap and I'll happily explain what we do if anyone's really interested – but preferably not now, unless anyone insists!

We produced a members' handbook, which I hope you've all read – or, if nothing else, have browsed the index to see what's there and take time to read the etiquette section from time to time. Most of the content is there to help, particularly for new members, but you might be surprised how many of our players (including some very experienced ones) don't follow some of the basics in that etiquette section! Please do have a look at it.

Very recently, we decided to canvas members' opinions on how we were doing; Howard produced and circulated a questionnaire, which had an excellent response rate, and that will be discussed later in the agenda.

In conclusion; I believe it's been another successful year 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 Daphne, Liz, Carolyn, John, Tim, Howard and Tony, who've all made important contributions.

Of specific note, thanks should go to Tony and Howard for taking the lead responsibility, with me, for making sure the hall's open each week, that everything's set up and then put away after you've all (hopefully!) enjoyed yourselves, to John for his efforts to train us, to Tim and Tony for all their effort in getting us through that ridiculously bureaucratic General Data Protection Register (GDPR) exercise in the Spring and very importantly to Howard for constantly being a wise counsel, always willing to advise, support or sometimes calm whatever it is that's exciting or frustrating me at the time.

I keep on emphasising that this is YOUR club, but these people all work hard to help you enjoy it, and I'd ask you please to show your gratitude to them in the usual way.

So, that's it from me and time to hand over to Howard for the Treasurer's report.

KINGSTON SEYMOUR BRIDGE CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2018

	----- 2017 -----		----- 2018 -----
INCOME			
Membership Fees	£258.00		£532.00
Table Money	£2,548.00		£3,190.00
Grants & Donations	£665.00	Nailsea BC	£100.00
		CiN	£195.00
Total Income	<u>£3,471.00</u>		<u>£4,017.00</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Hall Fees	£1,138.50		£1,237.50
EBU Affiliation	£36.00		£25.00
EBU P2P Fees	£453.60		£567.48
EBU - Club Insurance	£63.50		£74.70
BridgeWebs Licence	£40.00		£48.00
BridgeTabs Equipment	£1,486.32		
BridgeTabs Licence			£66.29
Scorebridge Licence	£45.00		£36.00
Competition Entry	£45.00		£80.00
Course Fees and Booklets	£28.00		£6.25
Equipment & Stationery	£334.68		£469.74
Charity Donations	£65.00	CiN	£219.00
Xmas Event	£50.89		£69.36
Refreshments	£93.50		£138.56
Duplimate costs		Clevedon & Portishead BC	£140.00
Miscellaneous Expenditure			£15.00
Total Expenditure	<u>£3,879.99</u>		<u>£3,192.88</u>
Surplus / Deficit for the year	<u>-£408.99</u>		<u>£824.12</u>
Accumulated Funds			
Balance as at 31.12.2016	£585.87	Balance as at 31.12.2017	£176.88
Surplus / Deficit for the year	-£408.99	Surplus / Deficit for the year	£824.12
Balance as at 31.12.2017	<u>£176.88</u>	Balance as at 31.12.2018	<u>£1,001.00</u>
Represented by :-			
Bank Account	£156.15	Bank Account	£979.97
Cash in Hand	£20.73	Cash in Hand	£21.03
	<u>£176.88</u>		<u>£1,001.00</u>