

LARGS BRIDGE CLUB  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON 28 APRIL 2025

CHAIR

Jennifer Neilson, Vice President was in the chair

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from fifteen members, including the President Rankin Durnin

QUORUM

The Constitution stated that ten members constituted a quorum.  
38 members were present

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL  
2024

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated with the agenda.  
They were unanimously approved as a correct record. There were  
no matters arising

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Largs Bridge Club AGM. Unfortunately Rankin is  
unable to be with us today so his report has been prepared by  
myself and Peter our secretary. I would like to welcome new  
members Helen O'Brian and Douglas Wilkinson who are  
members of Cumbernauld BC but are playing online with us. I  
am also pleased to welcome long term member Anne Bannatyne.

We have also two special guests with us today. Jim Morton and his daughter Jennifer who are here to present the Sadie Morton Memorial Trophy.

Our membership has increased by over 20% since the last AGM. We now have 123 home members and 7 away members, plus a multitude of non- members who play online on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the sessions organised by us.

Sadly, four of our members or ex members died in the past year -

Innes Rae, Sadie Morton, Norma Kelly and Berta Rodger.

Attendances at our sessions continue to increase –

Monday evenings -	9-10 tables
Monday afternoons -	7-8 tables
Tuesday online -	11-12 tables
Wednesday afternoons -	10 tables
Thursday online -	11-12 tables
Friday mornings -	6-8 tables

The Wednesday sessions started on 11 September after Douglas Park BC closed. It has proved to be very popular and a great success. The Committee plans to continue them indefinitely

The Secretary tried hard to have all our ftf sessions in one location. The Annexe has proved to be a suitable venue but was not available on Monday evenings. So it was suggested moving the Monday evening sessions to Monday afternoons when the Annexe was available. The Committee was split on this proposal. So you - the members - were consulted. Of those who voted, a large majority voted to continue with Monday evenings over the winter period. As one member put it to the Secretary - “Monday evenings would not be the same without playing Bridge”

The Committee decided to continue with Bridge training. Chris Gurney gives those attending the benefit of his experience on Thursday afternoons. The Secretary has attended most of the sessions and reports to the committee that the talks are very interesting and appear to be appreciated by the attendees. The talks are not just for improvers, Jean Featherstone has been playing Bridge for 70 years but still attends most talks.

Enquiries are received regularly from people wanting to learn how to play Bridge. The Secretary usually passes these on to Chris Gurney who has a learners' session in Ardrossan leisure centre, but we have managed to do a little bit of this ourselves, thanks to Paddy Walsh, who teaches some residents at Haylie House and some senior pupils at Largs Academy.

As you know the Hunterston Trophy is awarded to the most consistent player on a Monday evening and the Brisbane Trophy on a Friday morning. The Committee was conscious of the fact that the one-off trophies were all played for on a Monday evening over the winter and decided that this should change. The change was also prompted by the fact that Jim Morton, Sadie's husband, offered to fund the purchase of a new trophy in her memory. The Committee accepted this very generous offer, which resulted in us having an extra trophy to play for. The Committee wanted to have trophies similar to the Hunterston and Brisbane Trophies played for on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and have allocated the Sadie Morton Memorial Trophy as the Wednesday afternoon trophy and the Club Pairs Trophy as the Monday afternoon trophy. The Club Pairs Trophy has been renamed the Summer Cup. The Stone Trophy would be played as a one-off trophy on a Wednesday afternoon.

For the coming year, both trophies will be played as one-off events to give the committee time to find club members willing to help out by keeping the score sheets up to date. In the future, they will be played in the same way as the Hunterston and Brisbane trophies (awarded to the most consistent player over the season)

We need to identify members willing to be online directors. At the moment Tuesday evening is shared by Jennifer and Peter and Thursday evening run by Tony alone. Please volunteer to help out.

Jennifer is in charge of the dealing machine. At the moment it gets passed from her on to Kate Lawson, Alison Jamieson and Jim Meldrum every couple of months. We could do with extra help here. Please volunteer

We received an invitation to play a challenge match against Fort Matilda Bridge Club. Alison Jamieson organised a team of four pairs and a date was arranged in February. Unfortunately, FMBC called off due to the fact that they could not muster a team. The Secretary reminded them that we could play whenever they choose, since we had enough players available, but that has not yet materialised.

As you have seen from today's agenda, the Committee is seeking amendments to the constitution. Basically we need more help to run the club.

Peter contacted Louise, Jean Reid's daughter. As you know Jean had a spell in Inverclyde Hospital and transferred to a nursing home to convalesce. Unfortunately, while there she fell which set her back a bit. However, after surgery and lots of physio she hopes she will be back at Bridge soon and sends her best wishes to you all.

One of our members has decided it is time to return south. I would like to wish Diane well in her move south. I am sure she will find a friendly Bridge club and flower club to keep her busy – if not grandchildren.

Finally, I want to thank the Committee members for all their work over the last year plus all those not on the Committee who regularly help out at our face to face sessions - Kate who makes sure we have ample chocolate biscuits, tea and coffee - Jim Meldrum who directs the Friday ftf sessions - and Ian Jones who

has been keeping the aggregate spreadsheets up to date assisted by Ian Campbell and who has been keeping the website up to date with the scores and for organising the engraving and collection of all the trophies.

The club, however, would not function without the work of the Secretary Peter Eager and Treasurer, Tony Rowley who each spend a great deal of time and effort making sure our five weekly sessions of bridge are efficiently run. Thank you.

There were no questions and the President's report was noted

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT - REPORT BY TREASURER

1. This year the club has made a loss of -£2614.11 as a result of a deliberate policy to use club funds for the benefit of members. The main contributors to this loss are free training, a heavily subsidised Xmas party and club dinner, and a free afternoon tea at the AGM;

2. Membership and table money are significantly higher than last year whilst BBO income is flat. It is worth noting here that the SBU have decided to withhold 15% of our BBO earnings as an administration fee so our BBO income is likely to be lower next year. For accuracy our table money figure of £7165.84 should be increased by £571.76 to £7737.60 this being the amount of cash taken directly for catering purchases;

3. Our premises rent is higher this year due to the addition of a Wednesday afternoon session, training accommodation and increases in charges;

4. Our tournament and training catering costs of £559 excludes purchases directly from table money which were £571.76 and off account making the actual total £1130.76;

5. Equipment costs include a printer for the dealing machine kit, refurbishment of Bridgemates, the website and ScoreBridge maintenance charges;

6. The total cost of training including accommodation and tutor fees is £3260;

7. Our events nett cost this year was £4010.28 which includes the AGM, the Xmas Party and the Dinner;

8. We donated £1000 to charities with £200 each going to the Largs Food Bank, RNLI, Ayrshire Hospice, Hessilhead and Haylie House;

9. Our consumables spend includes banking stationary, postage and printer cartridges;

10. The gifts of £233.07 largely comprise cards and flowers for members who were ill;

11. Finally the club is in good financial health with £8417.07 in the bank. This is despite our fees being some of the lowest in Scotland. A significant amount of this financial success comes from BBO income where we do not have accommodation or equipment costs. It should be remembered that a significant part of the BBO income comes from non members.

The accounts are shown in the appendix

After discussion, the accounts were approved unanimously. The Committee recommended that the annual subscription for 2025/26 be fixed at £15 for home members and £5 for away members. This was approved unanimously.

## CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The members agreed to make charitable donations of £200 to charities as follows

Haylie House, Largs Food Bank, RNLI, Ayr Hospice and Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

(a) Clause 4 under Management provides for four committee members in addition to the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.

The Committee recommends that four be amended to six for reasons of cover and succession planning.

After discussion this was approved unanimously

(b) Under Annual Subscription, there is a provision that the annual subscription be paid by 31 October. This is now out of date. The Committee recommends that this date be changed to 31 May which is two months after the start of the club year and about one month after the date it is fixed by the members at the AGM

After discussion this was approved unanimously

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At this point, all the present committee resigned. These were Rankin Durnin, President, Jennifer Neilson, Vice President, Peter Eager, Secretary, Tony Rowley, Treasurer, Tricia Bennett, Paul McKay, Alison Jamieson and Paddy Walsh

### PRESIDENT

Jennifer Neilson was unanimously elected as President

### VICE PRESIDENT

Paul McKay was unanimously elected as Vice President

### SECRETARY

Peter Eager was unanimously elected as Secretary

## TREASURER

Tony Rowley was unanimously elected as Treasurer

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were no nominations for these positions other than Paddy Walsh, Patricia Bennett, Alison Jamieson, Ian Campbell, Kate Lawson and Eva Brown who were unanimously elected. It was noted that Rankin Durnin would continue as a member of the committee as immediate past President

## AUDITOR

Fiona Bennett, CA was appointed last year as Auditor. She is the daughter of committee member Patricia Bennett and an accountant with the Scottish Government. She is willing to be re-appointed by the members today. There were no other nominations. She was accordingly re-appointed unanimously

## DAY TRIPS

The suggestion was made that the Club should organise day trips to interesting places, such as Edinburgh, Falkirk Wheel, Dumfries House, Culzean Castle etc. After discussion, it appeared there was no great desire for trips like this. Members indicated that trips made to play Bridge might be of more appeal.

It was remitted to the Committee to consider this further

## MEETING ENDED