

**Minutes of the  
Northamptonshire County Bridge Association  
Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Zoom at 6pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Present: Bill Chadwick [BC](Chair), Rob Miller [RM](Vice-chair), Ross Stacey [RS](Treasurer), Trevor Thrower [TT], Jane Reeves [JR], Nicky Bainbridge [NB], Fred Davis [FD], Derek Wright [DW], Brian Harrison [BH], Graham Dolby [GD]and Mark Tilley [MT].

Apologies were received from:

Maggie Jones [MJ] and Tim Durdin [TD]

1. BC welcomed all to the meeting and thanked delegates for their time. There had been no requests from members other than committee members to attend.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 had been previously circulated. There were no amendments identified and the minutes were ACCEPTED. BC thanked FD for producing them from a recording of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Trophies for the Winter League and the Philip Broke trophy are still missing. Other trophies are with RS.

**Action:** BC to check at Stamford School and Stamford BC for those missing.

RS to check the cost of engraving Broke Cup, Eden Cup and Lakeland Trophy to bring up to date.

Winners have been updated on the website 'Honours Board'

3. Chairman's Report

BC reported:

"From the minutes of the last AGM I think we can say that things have moved forward in the year since if only a little. We have, at the least, a full complement of officers.

On appointment as Chair I laid out three priorities . First communication. To this end, the website has been brought up to date and features current news, items of general interest and latest results. There is so much more that we could do with it and I hope we will see further innovations in the months ahead. There have been two newsletters to keep members in touch and to remind them of county competitions. I hope to produce one every couple of months. We have our WhatsApp group which I encourage you to use for discussion and reminders.

Second, to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions of county members. Emails of thanks and congratulations have been sent out. The website has recorded successes. We need to find more ways to do raise awareness of these successes at the table but more importantly, of the efforts of those who make things tick. I'd like to start by awarding some of the trophies to winners rather than have them clutter Ross's spare room.

A third theme has been to breathe new life into county competitions. We have tried with limited success to give our county selector, Trevor, a larger pool of players to choose from for ECL matches. The inter club league attracted teams from Bourne and Towcester. Northampton managed to field 3 teams.

The Lakeland was a great success with 6 teams of 8. Twice as many as the previous year. The Eden Cup attracted more entries than last year as well although still, far too few and the Broke Cup entry increased from 6 teams to 9. Modest improvements from a low starting point. We are moving in the right direction but we need to encourage greater involvement. I look forward to the Swiss Teams next month and the county sims in Sept.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for your efforts for the county and for your clubs. Bridge players tend to be an undemonstrative bunch and, I think, rather take for granted the many opportunities to play this great game that you work so hard in your different ways to facilitate. So, well done and thank you."

FD thanked BC for his efforts since joining the committee and expressed confidence that things were moving in the right direction.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

RS had previously circulated his report, and this was tabled. RS briefly commented on decreasing costs with fewer face to face and more online competitions. He reported that the finances were healthy and the balance had increased by just under £550. The treasurer was thanked for his thoroughness in preparation of the accounts.. Roger Morton has audited the accounts and has agreed to do so again next year. BC proposed that the accounts be accepted, RM seconded and this was passed nem con.

#### 5. Election of Committee

The following committee was proposed and accepted.

Chairman	Bill Chadwick
Vice Chairman	Rob Miller
Treasurer	Ross Stacey
Secretary	Tim Durdin
County Selector	Trevor Thrower
League Secretary	Gary Upton
Match Secretary	Trevor Thrower
Competitions Secretary	Mark Tilley
Share Holder	Trevor Thrower
Ordinary Members	Derek Wright (Towcester BC), Fred Davis (Bourne BC & Midlands County Rep), Jane Reeves (Stamford BC), Brian Harrison (Orton BC), Nicky Bainbridge (Heart of England BC), Graham Dolby (Kettering BC), Tony Nixon (Wellingborough BC)

#### 6. Trophy Winners 2023-24

Eden Cup: Malcolm Orr-Ewing, John Blakesley

Lakeland Trophy: Kettering BC

Broke Cup: Bill Chadwick, Don McFarlane, Trevor Thrower, Tim Durdin

Betts Bowl: Gill Webb, Bill Simpson, Jane reeve, Brian Churchill  
Inter Club League: Div 1 still to completed. Div 2 – Stamford C

7. Any Other Business

FD suggested that the 2025 AGM be held face to face. There was some support for this from BC and RM but there was no agreement. To be discussed at a future committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 18:30.