

THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

Newsletter - March 2022

Annual General Meeting

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Presentation of Trophies
3. Minutes of the AGM of 2021
4. Matters Arising
5. Nominations for Officers and Committee
6. Chairman's Report
7. Treasurer's Report & Receive Annual Accounts
8. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner
9. Membership Secretary's Report
10. Announcement of new Officers and Committee
11. Motion
To amend Rule 2 of the Club's Rules to:

Visitors shall pay a table fee fixed by the trustees and will be allowed to attend the Club on three occasions in any calendar year. Provided that no person shall be a visitor into the Club who shall have been expelled from membership or whose conduct or presence in the Club House shall be considered by the trustees objectionable or prejudicial to the interests of the CIO.
12. Date of Next AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the club on Sunday 20th March, starting at 2pm.

You can find full documentation on the Club web site. Go to the tab on the left called AGM Information. There you will find minutes of last year's AGM, the Annual Report (the review of the year has been extracted from this and is on the next page of this Newsletter), and the annual accounts. If you have questions on the accounts, please email them to NottinghamBridgeClub@gmail.com in advance of the meeting so that we can ensure a detailed response.

Resolutions to be voted on, and nominations for Officers and Committee, need to be emailed (with details of seconder) to Chairman@NottinghamBridge.Club no later than 6th March. If there are new resolutions or more nominations than places, details will be emailed to members in advance of the meeting. Apologies may also be emailed to that address. Note that the Club constitution does not provide for votes by proxy.

BROADHEAD BOWL

The Broadhead Bowl is a members only competition traditionally run after the Annual General Meeting.

This year is no exception.

The competition will take place at the Club after the AGM, starting at 3pm

The winners will have their names entered on the Honours Board. Master Points are awarded.

There will be no table fee. There will be a break for refreshments (sandwiches etc and cake) during the competition. The refreshments are free. However, please register for the competition - either on the notice at the club or by email to the Chairman - by 10 March so that we can order the food.

After the Formal AGM

After the formalities of the AGM, there will be an opportunity for members to ask questions of the Trustees and to make suggestions of improvements or new activities they would like to see at the club.

A Look Back at 2021

Face-to-face Play

The pandemic has again been a major influence in activities. In 2020, there was the migration to online play. In 2021, there has been a gradual return to face-to-face play. This has been particularly welcomed by members who have not played online.

The trustees have always abided by government regulations. Consideration has been given to going beyond what is required e.g. by having temperature checks or requiring players to be fully vaccinated. However, the policy has emerged to go no further than would be required in visiting a restaurant.

As a result, face-to-face play was reintroduced in May, in a form of teams where players stayed on the same table throughout so as to abide by the rule-of-six.

Normal drives resumed in May. With the government's move to "Plan B" in December, masks were worn during play.

Numbers have slowly increased over the months, with nine tables at the Christmas party. There were four drives a week: Monday afternoons, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday evenings and Friday evenings catering for a range of abilities. A total of 144 players took part in at least one drive.

The Bridgemates have been replaced by tablets. Players quickly became familiar with their use and found the natural interface and easy-to-read display an improvement over Bridgemates. Members of other clubs have visited to see them in action before adopting them at their own clubs.

Online Play

With the reintroduction of face-to-face play, the decision was taken to discontinue the Friday evening online tournament. Some members expressed their disappointment with the trustees' decision. Similarly, other members expressed their disappointment that the Tuesday BBO tournament had not also been discontinued to encourage more players to return to the table.

At a committee meeting towards the end of the year, the trustees committed to continuing the Tuesday tournament

so long as there was sufficient demand to do so. The Saturday tournament is to continue on the same basis.

We had 201 members play in at least one online tournament during the year.

The club has entered the county's 2021/22 teams of eight competition, fielding five teams – one more than in recent years – which is being played online.

Teaching

Andrew Scott resumed face-to-face teaching with the beginners whose course had been disrupted by the pandemic.

Graham Brindley has also returned to face-to-face sessions for improvers, after establishing a very successful course online.

Financial Position

The club's financial position is very healthy. The annual accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, depreciating assets, and recorded a surplus of £14,000. The increase in bank and cash was £12,000.

As well as the tablets, new capital items were a computer and new doors.

A cashless system for paying for face-to-face table fees was introduced on a trial basis. This proved a sufficient success to be carried into 2022. It has reduced the workload of the treasurer and improved governance. It is very flexible, allowing automatic billing for annual subscriptions and enabling hosts to be credited for free play at sessions as well as reimbursing members for small purchases.

The Future

The nature of post-pandemic bridge is still evolving. It looks as though there will be some form of hybrid between face-to-face and online bridge. However, the trustees place great importance on attracting newcomers to the game, and indications are that teaching beginners and introducing them to competitive play will most easily be achieved through face-to-face activities.

Each year the Club makes a formal report to the Charity Commission. This is the section for Achievements and Performance in 2021, and is to be taken as read as part of the Chairman's report at this year's AGM.

Get your Friend to Volunteer

Our Club activities depend on the gracious contributions of an army of volunteers. But we are always on the lookout for new recruits! Requests for volunteers are often unsuccessful ... because people are so modest, always so sure that others would do the job better! So, this time, we're asking you not to volunteer yourself, but to encourage a friend to volunteer. They aren't full-time jobs. But sometimes just a few minutes a month can make all the difference.

If you are comfortable with using a computer and can follow a set of instructions to run a computer program, then there are lots of ways that you could help.

We always need more people to run drives. We're trying to share the work out so that dealing the boards, choosing the movement, moving the boards, scoring, and dealing with calls of the director could all be done by different people. Training is given and you can always opt out if you decide it's not for you.