

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE CLUB ON SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 2024

The meeting commenced at 1.30pm.

Mark Humphris was in the chair. Committee members present were Clive Backhouse, Lewis Selby, Pat Westall and Kate Deed.

Apologies were received from Tony Staw, Keith Robinson, Steve Pyle and 14 other members. 29 members attended.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

The full chairman's Report is available on our website. Mark reported that we are financially stable and also that our membership numbers are increasing, largely due to an initiative by Kate Deed to enrol beginners by running classes and a supervised duplicate session. This will be shortly expanded to running in tandem an unsupervised section for those who feel they are at the stage of wanting to expand their playing skills.

Attendances have slowly increased at our face-to-face sessions. Currently we only run one such session per week, on a Tuesday afternoon. He thanked those involved particularly Lewis Selby who generally directs, Harvey Kasin who does most of the scoring, and Sue Bardwell who corrals players to play and make up partnerships. The Wednesday evening online session is also going well with little expense and so raises a large amount of funds for the club. Theresa Murray-Bates mentioned that she is often contacted by Sue and asked if she would like to play and finds that nice and friendly. Harry Ashar asked about RealBridge. Mark replied that though he finds it a better platform many players don't like it so we are not considering re-instating it. Mark will however ask the Wednesday players their opinion.

A vote of thanks was made to the Committee.

The Chairman's Report was approved unanimously by the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clive Backhouse presented the Accounts and the Reporting Accountant's Report for the years ended 31st December 2022 and 2023. The club had a surplus of £2289 for the year ended 31st December 2022 and £2517 for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Club's net assets as at 31st December 2023 amounted to £17395.

A member asked how we would raise funds if a really serious expenditure on the premises was required. Clive replied that we have assets of over £17000 available and any excess would be by a loan from a bank or by subscription by purchasing shares or debentures in PBC Ltd by members.

Adoption of the report was approved unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Clive for his work over many years, and mentioned that Clive is happy to carry on, but would like to retire at some point in the not too distant future and asked any member who is capable to consider taking over.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The following were nominated as officers: -

Chairman – Mark Humphris
Vice Chairman – Tony Staw
Treasurer – Clive Backhouse.

Kate Deed, who was co-opted to the Committee during the last year, is nominated for election to the committee.

The Following are nominated for re-election to the Committee.

Lewis Selby, Pat Westall, Steve Pyle, Keith Robinson.

Mike Leigh was again nominated as Honorary Reporting Accountant.

There were no offers to fill the vacant position of Club Secretary.

There being no other nominees the meeting unanimously approved all those standing for election.

RESOLUTIONS

The meeting was asked to approve a new set of Club Rules adopted by the Committee.

The resolution was approved unanimously.

The Meeting was asked to approve a new Club Constitution prepared by the Committee. The main purpose of this is to update the existing Constitution to embrace modern technology and to make it easier for new applicants for membership to join the club. There are also reductions in the numbers required for a quorum for meetings.

The resolution was approved unanimously.

A resolution as to whether to remain affiliated to the English Bridge Union (EBU) was presented to the meeting. Pinner Bridge Club has been affiliated to the English Bridge Union for many years. At previous AGM's the membership has always been asked to decide whether to vote for, or against continued affiliation by the club to the English Bridge Union. The Committee of Pinner Bridge Club recently voted in favour of recommending to the membership that affiliation be continued. The Chairman presented a document setting out the pros and cons of being a member club of the EBU. Members were asked to vote either: 1. To remain affiliated to the English Bridge Union, or 2. To dis-affiliate from the English Bridge Union.

Peter Gartenberg queried the cost/benefit of remaining. Lewis pointed out that the cost per player per annum was approximately £7. If a player joined the EBU as an individual it cost £35. He also pointed out that cheating does go on in the game and the EBU works hard to investigate and oust cheats. When cheats are found guilty they are banned from all EBU registered clubs.

The meeting decided unanimously to remain affiliated to the EBU.

No other resolutions had been put forward.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a lively debate as to whether we could introduce a way of paying by card. Some members felt that there should be a choice of card or cash, and some felt that the way adopted by some clubs as well as entertainment venues of payment by card only was the way to go. Mark and Clive have already been looking at this and the Committee will decide in due course.

Mark mentioned that Pat Westall organised and presented the buffet prior to the meeting and this was received with a round of applause.

Susie Katz wished to place on record the thanks of the beginners for the work done by Kate Deed, Pam Adler and their team of helpers for the hard work they put in and the patience they show in running the Beginners' Duplicate. She added that they are all made welcome and are proud to be members of Pinner Bridge Club.

Rohit Desai asked whether there were any plans to run face-to-face evening sessions. Mark replied that we did attempt to start a Monday evening sessions shortly after covid restrictions were lifted, but it was really difficult getting numbers. A similar attempt last year on a Thursday did not get a great response, either. However, there is now a feeling in the bridge world that players are returning to face-to-face. The most likely window would be Monday evening. Parking near the Club is a challenge, but Mark pointed out that 32 or so players are queueing at the door on a Tuesday evening and Lewis pointed out that a similar number of players attend on Tuesday afternoon when parking is even more difficult. We will also need additional Directors and scorers as quite a few of those who did this pre-Covid are no longer around. Currently we have five directors and two scorers (plus Mark and Lewis) and the club would pay for potential directors to go on a training course. On a show of hands there did seem to be an interest in having a Monday night session. There was a proposal to have a monthly Sunday afternoon session which also had a good response. The Committee will discuss these proposals.

A suggestion was made that if a session overruns due to slow play or technical issues the last round should be cut out. Fiona Nathwani pointed out that if players were sitting ready to play by 1.50 there would be a much better chance of starting on time.

Clive commented that this is a members' club and as such every player should offer to help with tasks such as putting out Bridgemates and scorecards and not just leave it to the director and scorer. It is also not the Director or Scorer or indeed the Committee who should help clear up at the end of the session and this includes washing up any

cups or glasses they have used and closing windows and blinds. Pat Westall is very good at doing things, but it is not her responsibility. Clive commented that if players do leave cups to be washed up then the Committee will consider not providing them in future and will have to bring their own.

A vote of thanks was made to the Committee.

Mark announced that the Committee Cup will be presented to the winners of this afternoon's pairs event.

The meeting closed at 2.35pm with thanks to the Chairman.