

Reading Bridge Club
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online
at 6.45pm on Thursday 12 May 2022

The meeting was chaired by Pat Dowdeswell; 21 members attended via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

Mike Perkins, Ian Reissmann, Steve de Looze, Jennie Supper, Tony Parkinson, Christine Sanders and Linsey Joyce

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting held on 12 May 2021 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Three actions from the minutes have been completed.

4. Annual report for 2021/22

The annual report presented by the Secretary is included as Annex 1 to these minutes.

5. Presentation of the annual accounts

The annual accounts for 2021/22 which have been examined by John Chamberlain are included as annex 2 to these minutes. The Treasurer noted that the excess of expenditure over income was particularly large due to the extensive refurbishment of the flat which was undertaken during a change of tenancy. With the flat unoccupied for nearly 5 months rental income for the year was substantially lower. These losses were largely offset by a second Covid grant made to the club. For online bridge a payment is made to the director as well as to BBO and the EBU. At the current level of table money, five tables are required to recover these expenses, which has been achieved for all events this year. A refund of corporation tax is due to the club.

The club subscription for 2022/23 is £10 and is due now. So far around 60 have renewed; a reminder will be sent to all members (**action CH**).

6. Election of Officers and Committee

The present Officers and Committee were elected unopposed: Pat Dowdeswell (President), Chris Hall (Secretary), Mel Thomas (Treasurer), Sam Botfield, Christine Cook, Martina Zwiefelhofer, Simon Fixter, Giorgio Jeronimidis, Roger Burkeman, Gill Smith (Committee Members).

7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

John Chamberlain was appointed.

8. Working Party

Volunteers are required to make up a small working party to undertake various tasks at 35 Jesse Terrace, including tidying up the garden and replacing a fence post. Work is best undertaken in May and again in the autumn (**action SF**).

9. A return to face-to-face bridge

A wide-ranging discussion covered a number of points:

- There has been a substantial drop in the number playing online compared with the number playing face-to-face in 2019 and earlier. This is true of all clubs, not just Reading.
- Where clubs have returned to face-to-face bridge attendance is typically 50-75% lower than in 2019. It is hoped that the number playing will increase over time.
- For some online has its attractions: the convenience of playing at home.
- RealBridge offers more social contact and is preferred to BBO by some, but not all.
- The club's one attempt to return to face-to-face bridge on a Monday afternoon attracted insufficient numbers. Some members prefer to play in the evenings. We could choose an evening other than Thursday but for any day of the week we choose there will be clashes with other local clubs. Several members play at Bradshaws on Tuesdays, though that club may be about to change its playing days.
- We could play face to face on Thursday evenings and move the online session to Tuesdays.
- It is not clear that the club can hold two viable sessions per week, one online the other face to face, but most felt it was worth trying again. A social type evening with drinks and nibbles was suggested.

10. Any Other Business

There was none