

Scunthorpe Bridge Club AGM 13th September 2022

1. In attendance - 32 members and Committee.

2. Apologies – 22 received.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM October 2021 – the acceptance of these as a true and accurate record was proposed by Andy Lewis and seconded by Bill Keast were agreed.

4. Matters arising – Non

5. Presidents address

It has been a challenging year for the Scunthorpe Bridge Club, its Committee and indeed its members.

Opening up to play F2F bridge after being closed for 18 months was a joyous occasion, but it was an occasion mixed with apprehension, as Covid was still around which meant restrictions had to be imposed. These restrictions were necessary, but it did make things slightly awkward for members.

The first 6 months after opening saw table numbers drastically reduced – this was a great concern for many on the committee, as with such numbers, Club income would not be able to meet forecasted expenditure. This was the reason for the increase in Membership fees from £10 to £15 and for table money to increase from £2 to £3. It is worth noting however, that the table money had not increased for around 15 years and for an afternoon or evening's entertainment (with tea coffee and biscuits) I still believe this is very good value for money.

Upon becoming President of the club; I and the committee were confronted with a leaking toilet, a leaking overflow pipe, a leaking roof and a broken gas boiler. The leaks were sorted, a new boiler fitted and a professional survey was carried out on the roof – this was to be the committee's biggest headache as it was found that the roof was in very poor shape which needed patchwork repairs done immediately, until a new roof could be fitted. A full 12 months later and we still do not have a new roof. This is continuing to be an ongoing process as of today.

Onto F2F bridge. First of all let me say a big "thank you" to Sue and Bill Keast for the quality of teaching and the enthusiasm they show with the beginners who have never played bridge before, indeed those beginners are now "intermediate" players. If we can keep on encouraging newcomers to the game at this Bridge Club, then the future of the Club cannot be in doubt.

The 'social' and 'relaxed' style of bridge on Tuesday afternoons is very well supported as are Thursday evenings and Monday evening backroom sessions and I consider it to be of the utmost importance to make members feel welcome to play here on those days. Table numbers on these sessions are exceeding those on the main competitive sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I am genuinely hoping that as the intermediate players

become more confident and experienced, that there will be some crossover by those people to the competitive evenings, so that they can experience playing against the long standing bridge players.

I would like to dispel a perceived rumour here, the long standing, experienced, competitive bridge players are not nasty, horrible and awful people. People starting out on their bridge journey have absolutely nothing to fear by pitting their wits and bridge skills against them, In order to improve, you do have to sometimes jump in at the deep end and if you do sometimes get things wrong, that is when you learn and improve.

Now this brings me on to the highlight of the last 12 months, because one day this year, it was proved that the old timers are not nasty and horrible, because the beginners, intermediate and experienced players alike, all met up for a Ukraine Humanitarian Relief Charity Day, and it was a fantastic fun afternoon. I think everyone had a really good and entertaining day irrespective of their level of bridge knowledge, it was just so satisfying to see you all there. We raised £750 (with much donated by people anonymously) and was far beyond anything I imagined, especially as it was all arranged at very short notice.

A brand new competition was started in January, the Sunday Trophy. One Sunday every calendar month, 12 games in total. I would like this competition to continue for many years, but it will need members to come and play, we cannot go on with just 2 or 3 tables. It is perhaps the friendliest competition on offer at the club and ideal for the less experienced players to gain experience.

Finally. There are many members both on and off the committee, who help this club function, and I would thank them all for their effort and dedication. I would however, like to mention by name the Club Secretary Sue Barraclough, not only for the way she copes with the volume of work dumped on her doorstep throughout the year, but also for her support and guidance given to me in this my first year as Club President. Also, a big thank you to Rod and Wanda- they give up many hours of their time on a weekend to deal a week's worth of cards on the computerised dealing machine so that you can all turn up here. Play bridge and have fun, which, is as it should be.

A lot of time and effort has gone into thrashing out the various options of what type of roof to put on. I would like to mention by name Val Threadgould, and our Club Secretary Sue Barraclough for their work on this problem.

To summarise things as accurately as possible, with a new roof fund of £30,000 the initial quote was going to cost £55,000 and a suggestion was put forward to ask members to raise via " repayable loans", the extra £25,000. When the company was told that a separate project management team was being brought in to ensure the work was done properly and to specification, the cost went up to £70,000.

There was incredible agonising by everyone at the committee meeting where a vote in favour of asking members to raise £40,000 on this " repayable loan basis", to get the roof done, because the option of 'doing nothing' was considered to be an even worse option than asking members for such a huge loan to safeguard the club premises. It was on that

very day that this vote was taken, that another option of a shallow pitched corrugated roof by a local industrial roofing company was put on the table, and at a cost of around £33,000, meant we could meet the cost out of existing funds, without having to ask members for financial help.

Unfortunately, it turned out that it was not going to be that simple, the Council Planning Department took 8 weeks to decide planning permission was going to be required, at a cost of nearly £500. This meant that Buildings Regulations and Architects drawing were also going to be required, adding around another £3000 to the cost. This is still an ongoing process as of today.

Thank you.

6. Secretary's report

Unfortunately I have to report that membership has fallen over the Covid period down to approx 140 members although some are also on hold and may return at a later date, plus hopefully some new members may also join us from the new classes starting this week.

I would like to ask what support there would be for an afternoon session instead of an evening, on a Weds. Show of hands in favour of continuing evening session – majority for No

Secondly would a majority of you support a 6.45pm start so sessions finish earlier- show of hands 50/50 split.

7. Treasurers report.

Reports not comparable to previous as only covers period of 9 and a half months since club reopened.

Depreciation £1,100 down by £600 from previous accounts. Bank balance down as monies for bridge holiday on hold was paid out. Net assets static at approx. £40,000.

Would like to thank Keith Stewart for his examination of accounts.

All in all expenditure should meet income for the forthcoming year.

8. Election of Officers and Committee.

Club President - Andy Lewis

Vice President – Susan Keast

Club Secretary – Sue Barraclough

Club Treasurer – Mike Llewellyn

Committee – Roy Brixton. Val Threadgould, Wanda Kotowska, Glynn Elwick, Yvonne Aubrey.

9. Trophy awards

See separate sheet in file and on notice board.

10. Proposed changes to the Constitution.

a) Paragraph 7.3.2 be changed to 7.3.3

A new paragraph 7.3.2 be inserted:-

Short Notice Committee Meeting – If a situation arises for any reason, and at least two of the club's officers and at least two other committee members are in agreement, a short notice Committee Meeting can be called.

All members of the Committee shall be notified of the venue, date and time.

Such notice shall be no later than 3 days prior to the date fixed for the meeting.

b) Alteration of 12.1

The final sentence – (Unless the Committee.....paid in full) be changed to:-

Unless the Committee remains unpaid on the 31st December following the AGMpaid in full.

Addition of 12.1.1

If a membership subscription is not paid by the 31st December following the AGM, an additional late payment fee of £5 is to be added to the membership fee. This may be waived if the member presents in writing the valid reasons for this to the Club Secretary for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

A show of hands carried both these changes by a majority.

11. Any Other Business.

As none was notified to the Secretary prior to the meeting no further business would be discussed/ minuted.