

Seaford Bridge Club AGM 2018

Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2018 in the Sutton Hall, Wave Leisure Centre, Seaford. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 13.15

- 1. Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from P. Bacchus, H. Basden-Smith, F. Basden-Smith, P Carter, P Clarke, C Creamer, H Creamer, C Evans, L Fuller, J Green, H Howlett, P Howlett, R Littlejohns, M Norris, M Reader, J Rogerson, S Rogerson, B Sharp, R Smith, S Smith, S Stroud.

- 2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted by show of hands as a true record of last year's meeting. There were no matters arising.

- 3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on what had been a busy year for the committee. It had met six times at roughly two monthly intervals and had considered a range of matters some, such as electronic scoring and the club's own constitution, requiring considerable thought and discussion. To assist in this two sub-committees had been formed, chaired respectively by John Gillespie and Hugh Basden Smith to inform consideration by the main committee. Discussion of electronic scoring remains ongoing but changes to the constitution were considered and passed at a Special General Meeting in November.

Another matter concerned changes to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge which thankfully does not come up very often and it was thought sensible to act in concert with Southdown Bridge Club in their introduction following a series of mini talks given by the director of the day on various changes, following a programme arranged by Alan Hughes drawing on a summary kindly provided by Colin Graham Hyde.

Other matters included a survey of members views early in the committee year on the way forward for future Club Christmas Parties particularly on the matter of refreshments and how these were to be provided, the format of the evening and what type of bridge was to be played. In the event, for the 2017 party, the committee came up with the idea of running two sections simultaneously, each with its own director, which proved popular and enabled 'serious' bridge to be played.

In September and following a straw poll the committee increased table money to £1.50 per person to provide additional funds to assist in the purchase of an electronic scoring system should it be decided to propose such a purchase to members.

Sadly, in the middle of the year, Babs Saker passed away and the club were very recently advised of the death of June Hill who had been unable to attend sessions for some very considerable time. Other absentees for reasons of health included Michael Shave, Shirley Rogerson, Pat Tyack and Barbara Harper but the club was pleased to see the return of Margaret Reader following her stroke and Chris Evans following her shoulder injury.

Finally, in his report which is attached to these minutes as a record, the chairman thanked all those whose efforts throughout the year had kept the club running so smoothly including the directors and scorers, John Gillespie and Hugh Basden Smith for chairing the two sub-committees, Colin Graham Hyde for his work preparing a summary of law changes and Alan Hughes for arranging the programme of mini talks, Michele Conway for her help in making the Christmas Party a success and Hugh Creamer and Alan for directing that evening. Others who worked quietly away behind the scenes included John Rogerson and Joyce Rowell preparing new cards for play, Marie Bawden for sending cards to those who were unwell, Heather Hedges as partner finder, members of the committee for their continued hard work not only as a committee but each on their individual tasks and club secretary Carol Gillespie who laboured away on the paperwork and the website and Hugh Basden Smith for his stewardship of club funds.

Lastly, special thanks were due to Hugh Creamer and Hugh Basden Smith both of whom were standing down from the committee, Hugh C after serving as a member for six consecutive years and Hugh B-S as treasurer for four.

- 4. Treasurer's Report**

The Accounts, prepared by Hugh Basden-Smith (examined by Martin Auger), and displayed on the Club noticeboards for the requisite amount of time, were approved by show of hands.

5. Election of Officers

The following members stood for election as Officers to the Committee unopposed and were duly elected by the members by a show of hands:

Leslie Fowle, Chairman; Carol Gillespie, Secretary; Martin Auger, Treasurer.

6. Election of Committee

The following members stood for election to the committee unopposed and were duly elected by the members by a show of hands:

Bridget Constantinos, John Gillespie, Alan Hughes, Pam Pelling.

7. Subscription Rate and Table Money

For the forthcoming year it was approved that the subscription money will remain at £15.00 and the table Money at £1.50.

8. Competition Winners 2017

<i>Spring:</i>	N/S Marie Bawden and Eve Fry	E/W Ruth Skinner and David Manthorpe
<i>Summer:</i>	N/S Martin and Rowena Auger	E/W Michele Conway and Francoise Basden-Smith
<i>Autumn:</i>	N/S Martin and Rowena Auger	E/W Alan and Carol Hughes
<i>Winter:</i>	N/S Martin and Rowena Auger	E/W Peter Tyack and Alan Hughes

Grand Slams: John Rogerson and Joyce Rowell; David Neech and Peter Brain; Roger Chapman and Heather Hedges; Leslie Fowle and Sylvia Stroud; Joyce Rowell and Peter Parsons; and Betty Sharp and Karen Dyson.
The Highest Percentage Score: 71.43% was achieved on 12th December by Alan and Carol Hughes - £5.00 prize to each of them. Congratulations to you all.

9. Electronic Scoring System

Proposal: 'The Seaford Bridge Club Committee seek approval from the membership to purchase an electronic scoring system for use at Club bridge sessions. The Committee will ensure that the system selected will be appropriate to the needs of the Club both in terms of cost, support and functionality.'

The proposal was carried by a show of hands (including votes sent to the Secretary from members unable to attend): 39 in favour / 11 against.

10. Member's Proposal

'That (1) The Seaford Bridge Club Committee should invite the Southdown Bridge Club Committee for consultations on a merger of their two respective clubs and that (2) The Seaford Bridge Club Committee should conduct a ballot of all its members on the suggested merger during the present calendar year 2018'. The proposal was defeated by a show of hands (including votes sent to the Secretary from members unable to attend): 14 in favour / 34 against.

11. Any Other Business

Diane queried whether members are shuffling the boards correctly at the start of each play as there appeared to be a preponderance of 3334 hands. The new committee will check recommended methods of dealing.

Phil queried whether the new committee might consider looking at whether a Friday evening was still the most suitable evening to play.

Joyce thanked the outgoing committee for their hard work during the year.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks, given by Alan on behalf of the Committee, to our retiring Chairman Tony. Alan said this had been a particularly happy and productive year for the Committee which was due in large measure to Tony's calm authoritative voice, his democratic manner which ensured that each member of the Committee was given an equal amount of time to air their viewpoint, and to his eye for detail. His leadership was much appreciated by all the Committee. Thank you, Tony.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 14.32