

SEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

The Minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting held on 14 January 2020 at 1.05 pm, of the new Seaford Bridge Club (formed following the merger of Seaford Bridge Club and Southdown Bridge Club)

Venue: Sutton Hall, Downs Leisure Centre, Seaford, BN25 4QW

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Rod Smith, Sue Smith, Margaret Norris, Maureen Foster, Alison Johnson, Bernadette Raine, Barbara Harper, Gwen Coward, Pauline Clarke, Jean Allan, Bill Allan, Lionel Pelling, Mike Bennell, Jo Green, David Neech, Shirley Wallas, Margo Ayers and Jill Hughes

2. Brief Statements from Leslie Fowle (former Chair of Seaford Bridge Club) and Christine Creamer (former Chair of Southdown Bridge Club)

Leslie thanked members of the former Seaford Bridge Club for overwhelmingly agreeing to the merger of Seaford and Southdown Bridge Clubs at its Special General Meeting on 1 October 2019. Leslie also expressed thanks to Carol Gillespie for working over the Christmas break to merge the two separate membership databases into one and to John Gillespie for transferring the Southdown playing results into the Seaford database.

Christine acknowledged that the membership of the bridge clubs could not be described as ‘youthful’. As we get older we get set in our ways and find change difficult. Therefore it was very encouraging to receive such a positive response from members to the proposal to merge the two clubs. Christine continued that we must be ‘young at heart’ and felt sure that the new Club will be stronger as a result of the merger and would look forward to the future.

3. Adoption of a name for the new Club

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the name ‘Seaford Bridge Club’

Proposed: Margaret Parkinson Seconded: Heidi Howlett

4. Adoption of a New Constitution

The draft constitution for the new Seaford Bridge Club was, with one amendment, adopted unanimously. The amendment put forward by Alan Hughes was to that part of ‘Categories of Membership’ dealing specifically with the situation if in excess of sixty members attend to play in one session. The sentence beginning ‘In the event’ was amended to insert the words ‘in conjunction with a committee member’ after ‘the director’.

Proposed: Heidi Howlett Seconded: Debbie Forrester

5. Election of Officers

Following the receipt of nominations the following officers were elected unopposed:

Co-Chairs Leslie Fowle and Christine Creamer

Secretary: John Gillespie

Treasurer: Martin Auger

Proposed: Marie Bawden Seconded: Julia Walker

6. Election of Committee

Following the receipt of nominations the following were elected to serve on the committee unopposed:

John Hughes, Pam Pelling, Martin Almond and Francoise Basden-Smith

Proposed: Carol Gillespie

Seconded: Peter Parsons

7. Subscriptions

A proposal to set Club subscriptions for 2020 at £15.00 was passed.

Proposed: Peter Parsons

Seconded: Ruth Skinner

8. Table Money

A proposal to set table money for 2020 at £1.50 (£3.00 guests) per playing session was passed.

Proposed: Greta Bennell

Seconded: Maggie New

9. Prize Money

A proposal to discontinue the payment of prize money at normal playing sessions was passed overwhelmingly after a show of hands:

Proposed: Alan Hughes

Seconded: John Nott

The new committee will consider competitions and possible prize money at its first meeting.

It was agreed after comments by Sylvia Stroud and Ruth Skinner that the new committee would consider ways of assisting a charity during the course of the coming year.

10. Any Other Business (submitted in writing before 31.12.19)

The following motion was submitted for consideration by Peter Parsons:

‘that the elected Chairperson(s) confirm that all outstanding business decisions or recommendations made by the committees or members of the Seaford or Southdown Bridge Clubs prior to their amalgamation are now considered null and void.

In particular, would you please confirm that any decision relating to the purchase of a Dealing Machine will only be made after comprehensive discussion and unanimous approval of the full elected committee of the newly formed Seaford Bridge Club and subsequently of the majority of the Club’s members at a Club General Meeting.’

Following a brief discussion the motion was proposed by Heidi Howlett and seconded by Francoise Basden-Smith.

Following a show of hands the motion was carried unanimously.

Before the meeting closed Peter Parsons proposed a vote of thanks to all of those who had worked so hard to achieve the merger of the two bridge clubs.

11. The Meeting closed at 13.20. There were 48 members present. The meeting was followed by an afternoon of bridge.

