

Seaford Bridge Club

Minutes of the Special General Meeting 2017

A Special General Meeting of members was held at Wave Leisure Centre, Tuesday 14th November, 2017, to consider proposed changes to the Club's Constitution.

Committee members present: Tony Thorpe (Chairman), Carol Gillespie (Secretary), Hugh Basden-Smith (Treasurer), Alan Hughes and John Gillespie (Teller).

The Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.15.

- 1.0 Apologies** were received from the following members: John Cappello, Pauline Clarke, Heather Hedges, Sue Mitchell, David Neech, Margaret Norris, Angela Patrick, Bernadette Raine, Sylvia Stroud.
- 2.0 Presentation of the revised Constitution** by the Chair of the sub-committee, Hugh Basden-Smith.
- 3.0 Discussion** The following points were raised by members during the SGM and will be considered by the Committee at their next meeting:
 - (i) Clauses 3(b) & 3(c)**
Peter Parsons objected that these two additional clauses 3(b) &(c) had been inserted into the Constitution.
 - (ii) Clause (3b)**
Peter Tyack objected to the wording of 3(b) arguing that rather than stating 'The Chairman shall serve for a maximum period of three years' the clause should state 'may not serve for more than three years'. In response, Alan Hughes pointed out that when read in conjunction with 3(a) (i.e. annual elections) the meaning of 3(b) was clear.
In response to a question from Rowena Auger the Chairman confirmed that after a member had been elected (annually) as Chair of the committee for three consecutive years, that same member could stand again after a minimum of one year absence from the post if s/he so wished.
 - (iii) Clause (3c)**
Peter Parsons argued against the inclusion of 3(c) on the grounds that as both Seaford and Southdown Bridge Clubs elect their Officers from, more or less, the same small pool, it might be necessary for a member to serve on both Committees.
Jo Green advised the members that she belonged to a group which had the same predicament with a sister group and which took the decision some time ago to not allow members to be on both Committees. Jo's experience was that this worked well and also avoided split loyalties.
 - (iv) Hon. President**
Peter Tyack expressed his dismay that the original Clause 3(d) had been deleted from the Constitution. He argued that, in the future, the Committee may wish to elect an Hon. President - perhaps as a token of thanks to a member for their long involvement in the club. Tony Thorpe pointed out that as there had been no election of a President for some considerable time, the sub-committee thought this deletion a timely revision.
- 4.0 Vote** The Chairman called for a show of hands in favour of adopting the revised constitution. The vote was carried 34-2.
- 5.0 The meeting closed** at 1.40 with a note of thanks from the Chairman to the sub-committee (Alan, Hugh and John) for their work on revising the Constitution.