

*Staffordshire and Shropshire Contract Bridge Association*  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

held on

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 5 p.m. on Zoom**

Present: Pam Booth-Jones (Chairman), Jane Sheehan (Treasurer), Judy Mitchell (Secretary), Paul Cutler (County Captain), Ann Sleightholme (Membership Secretary), James Vickers; and 9 members

Apologies: Jeff Jones (Competitions Secretary), Paul Hackett (EBU Rep), Marion Adams (Border)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and commented that this was the best attended AGM for many years.

1. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 1<sup>st</sup> September & EGM on 9<sup>th</sup> October: There was no quorum at the AGM, and EGM was convened to ratify the proposal that the county's fee via P2P should remain at 6p per game. These were taken as read, and there were no matters arising. It was proposed by Alma Richards and seconded by Geoff Davies & accepted as a true record.
2. Chairman's Report: The Chairman's report had been circulated beforehand and attached to the Minutes. In addition she said how important it was to keep in touch with players to encourage them to play on line but also to make contact for those who may feel lonely and isolated. There were reports from some club representatives. Isobel Rees (Tettenhall), Ruth Timmis & Hazel Paynter (Eccleshall) and Geoff Davies (Stafford) reported on their efforts. Judy Mitchell reported that the County was prepared to subsidize No Fears sessions provided that there were at least 6 tables and that plans were afoot to start the club next month.
3. Treasurer's Report: A copy of Jane Sheehan's Profit & Loss Account & Balance Sheet had been circulated and a copy attached. The profit of £1,400 was due to the Andrew Robson event last October, without which the County just about broke even. The unexpected high interest rate was because the large sum was invested in a savings account which could not be accessed. Paul Cutler queried the fact that prize money for the year 2019/20 had not been presented, but Jane stated that that question had to be addressed to Jeff Jones because he dealt with such things. Robin Adey asked about P2P charges: Judy said that total P2P from clubs was 46p per person each game, with 40p (UMS) for the EBU and 6p returned to the county for county membership. Jane reported that the rent to Wolverhampton Bridge Club had been paid for a few months but that the direct debit had now been cancelled since we were not using the premises. It was agreed that the Treasurer could destroy paperwork six years' older than the current year.
4. Competitions Secretary's Report: Jeff Jones's report had been circulated and a copy attached. In it he announced that he would resign from the post at the end of the 2020/21 season and would like his successor to come forward to shadow him during his last year. Therefore a new Competitions Secretary was needed.
5. Congress Secretary's Report: A copy of Judy Mitchell's report and Statement of Accounts had been circulated beforehand and copy attached. This year's cancelled Congress recorded a loss because all entry fees were refunded, and because certain expenses were incurred using "balance in hand" from last year. With regard to the future, next year's Congress could go ahead on line, and Judy was in touch with Sarah Amos about that possibility.

6. Membership Secretary's Report. Ann Sleightholme's report had been circulated a copy attached. It was noted that county membership was much the same as the previous year's. Unfortunately Ann's microphone was not working, and any questions would need to go to her later.
7. County Captain's Report: Paul Cutler's report had been circulated and a copy attached. The final matches for the Dawes (the Midland Inter-Counties Leagues) had been cancelled. For the forthcoming season, nothing had been finalized so far, but it was hoped that matches would be arranged on line. The Tollemache was going ahead on line in November, and he hoped to raise a team. He reported that plans were afoot to run the S&SCBA leagues on line and flyers would be sent out.
8. Proposal Paul Cutler, seconded by Pam Booth Jones, that the word "Duplicate" be removed from the Constitution as recommended by the Midlands Counties Working Group. He reported that at that group meeting the delegates agreed that the EBU and individual counties should be there representing all bridge players, not just duplicate bridge players. This was voted on nem con.
9. Elections: There were no nominations for the Committee, and with all current holders of positions on the Committee prepared to stand again, it was proposed by Robin Adey, seconded by Geoff Davies and approved that they all be re-elected, as follows:  
Chairman – Pam Booth-Jones  
Honorary Treasurer – Jane Sheehan  
Honorary Secretary – Judy Mitchell  
Competitions Secretary – Jeff Jones  
County Captain – Paul Cutler  
County Membership Secretary – Ann Sleightholme  
EBU Representative – Paul Hackett.  
Robin Adey expressed his thanks to the members of the Committee for all their hard work.

#### 10. Any Other Business

- (i) Pam Booth-Jones announced that John Withers had been awarded the Dimmy Fleming Award this. John had been associated with County affairs for many years: serving as Membership Secretary, starting during the years when records were maintained manually before the computer was the tool; working on the changes involved when P2P would come into force and how each club would be affected; being the person to consult over computer scoring and the connections between club or county and the EBU. Everyone expressed pleasure that he was the recipient of this award, which would be presented at the first opportunity.
- (ii) Judy pointed out that the Webmaster's report had been distributed earlier in the day and a copy attached.
- (iii) With regard to her organization of the online bridge clubs, Judy wished to express her thanks to John Withers for taking on the task of Registrar of on-line players and to James Vickers for his hand-commentaries after the Wednesday evening online bridge sessions.
- (iv) Hazel (Eccleshall) expressed the hope that the County would assist Clubs when face-to-face bridge returned, perhaps with advertising to encourage everyone to return to clubs.
- (v) Geoff suggested that Clubs with a low turn-out might join forces with another; and Robin suggested that Stafford should accept players from outside the Club to join their sessions and said that he would contact Terry.

The meeting closed at 18.10 p.m.  
28.09.20.

P.S. I apologise for not bringing up the subject of last year's Andrew Robson Seminar. I wished to put on record our thanks to Kath Adams and the team of helpers for organizing this seminar: a successful seminar, sadly marred by poor presentation of food.