Minutes of St. Leonards Bridge Club AGM held on 14th March 2023

 Arthur Easton Hall

1. There were 13 apologies for absence
2. Acceptance of minutes being a true record of AGM 2022 Proposed by Ann Hone and seconded by Mel Young
3. Matters arising...None
4. Chairman’s report

Welcome everyone thank you for coming today, I hope you are all enjoying your wine.

The committee decided not to charge a membership fee in 2022 as we only played for a few weeks in the previous year. We would like to thank those members who continued to support the club. Some members felt they could not return to face to face bridge.

We had only about 40 members after our return from covid.

During the year this picked up, largely due to our Friday afternoon sessions at the Convent instigated and run by Julia Brown.

She got new players going with lessons and play and ask. This was supported by Brian Gould and me.

I am sure we would all like to thank Julia for this important initiative as it has brought us new members and helped some return to bridge.

We also introduced pairs and teams on Friday evenings at the same venue. All of these sessions kept us financially sound as Julia’s report will confirm.

Meanwhile at the start of the year we moved to Broomsgrove Community centre, some sessions were poorly attended and it proved to be an unpopular venue.

Linda Corcoron suggested a move to the Arthur Easton Centre at St Michaels Hospice: this has proved to be more popular and some of our members have returned; our thanks to Linda for finding this venue. Until she told us about it we were unaware of its existence.

We held a cream tea and bridge session for the late Queen’s jubilee, many thanks to Julia and Kathy for the catering.

Our Christmas lunch last year proved not to be a success, due to the poor organisation at the venue.

We will look at alternatives for 2023.

Eddie and Kathy ran an open blue pointed swiss pairs in December, 44 players from all over the area took part.

It was won by Andy King and his partner Garry Rogerson.

This event raised £200 for St Michaels Hospice.

Kathy’s catering was very popular.

I am sure we would like to thank Eddie and Kathy for running this event so successfully

 It has been suggested that we hold more Swiss pairs in the future, this is in hand. Two events are planned for 6th June and 9th December.

We replaced some items during the year, namely: 10 new tables, new bidding box cards, packs of cards, a laptop and bag and a new printer.

When we played at Horntye before Covid struck, we had a host system in place. This was initiated after a motion at an AGM, which said all members would host a session during the year. Some of our members who lived far away understandably found this difficult. The Committee would like to encourage members to volunteer to host our Tuesday afternoon sessions. As a members club if everyone could host one session a year it would spread the load considerably. As you know Kathy, Eddie and I have hosted many sessions since our return to Face to face bridge. I will carry on trying to find partners for Monday evenings. A list will be brought round soon asking members to sign up for this initiative.

Sadly Louise South passed away last year; she lost her battle with cancer.

Unfortunately, Daphne Reece and Doss Phillips have stopped playing at the club and have gone into care; we will all miss them both

I would personally like to thank all members of the committee past and present for their hard work in keeping the club running.

Eddie continues to duplimate at home and I thank him for continuing to do this. We are still getting income from this for duplimating for other clubs.

The committee would like to thank members for their continuing support. As usual the committee would like all members to come to more sessions. We need a bigger attendance in some sessions, if we are to survive in our current format in the future.

The Committee would like to thank all those who directed, scored and duplimated during the last year. Without them the club could not operate.

This concludes my report and I would like to hand you over to Julia for her Treasurer’s Report.

We are grateful to Brian Gould who audited our accounts.

5 Treasurer’s Report

Good Afternoon

If you would like to look at the final accounts you will see there is a small deficit of £397.05 which is less than last years £885.13.

The committee have been working hard to cut costs by finding premises at a much reduced rate than the Horntyes £70 & refreshments charges. We are now paying £52.50 and £45 respectively for Monday night and Tuesday afternoon with minimal costs for tea and coffee with biscuits.

There were removal fees, investment in new tables, new printer and new server – all are ongoing costs.

It was also agreed that we would not charge the yearly subscription for 2022 and would start again in January 2023 unless we had new members in which case they would be charged the going rate.

We also gave a donation to St Michaels Hospice from our Christmas Swiss Pairs Event of £200 + £42 which was given on the day by attendees.

As some of you may be aware that we had the bulk of our money in a Nationwide account. As that account was closed by NW it was agreed to move all the money into one account at Lloyds until such time as interest rates improved.

Looking at the accounts again you will see that we have used more vouchers than have been bought. This is due to the fact that last year there was a surplus of £183 of vouchers bought but not used. This could not be shown in the accounts has they were held by members and we could not be sure whether they still had them or they were lost.

So this year there were £12 worth of vouchers used that had not been bought in this financial year and there is still a surplus being carried over to next year.

I would like to draw your attention to two areas of the accounts that I feel should have a Special mention.

Firstly, Duplimating. Eddie very kindly does all the duplimating and provides this service to East Sussex, Bexhill and Rye Bridge Clubs as well as for ourselves. This has brought in £1148.00 to the club. Unfortunately this year there have been expenses for the first time. The service which was £348 and a repair (replacement motherboard) £330, still bringing in a surplus of £470.00

Secondly, Friday Afternoons and Team Evenings,

These two events have brought in a surplus to the club of £540.22 from March through to December after expenses.

Both of these areas have helped enormously to keep us afloat in the very difficult times that we live in.

I hope this all meets with your approval. If there are any other questions please speak to me after the meeting.???

6 Presentation of awards

2022 winners were:

**Kathy Williams** took away the Chairman's Cup with the best average of all sessions combined during 2022.

**Kathy & Eddie** **Williams** were the top scoring pair over all sessions

**Ann Hone** had the most improved average all seasons combined during the year

Di Saunders won most improved Monday evening average

Kathy & Eddie Williams had the best average Monday Evenings

Eddie Williams had the best average Tuesday Afternoons

**Kathy Williams** won the most masterpoints in club sessions.

7 Election of Officers and committee members for 2022

Chairman Andy Eames

Vice Chairman Eddie Williams

Secretary Kathy Williams

Treasurer Julia Brown

Committee member Elaine Ford

Committee member Robin Levett

Proposed by Alan Townsend Seconded by Peter Marshall

8 Election of auditor for 2023

Brian Gould was happy to audit again

Proposed by Eddie Williams Seconded by Andy Eames

9 Members proposals – None

10 Any Other Business

Julia told the members why Friday sessions at the Convent were started. She asked that members be tolerant of new players.

Eddie told the members about special events coming this year.

Peter Marshall gave a vote of thanks to the committee.

The meeting closed at 1.55pm