

Minutes of Annual General Meeting - Watford and Bushey Bridge Club

Tuesday 20th December 2022 at 6.35 pm

Sacred Heart Church Hall, London Road, Bushey, Herts, WD23 1BA

1. **Opening** - The meeting was opened by the Chairman (David Eddleston) with 33 members present. This was non-quorate, but those present voted to proceed with the meeting. By the end of the meeting, the number of members present was more than sufficient for a quorum (40).
2. **Apologies For Absence** – Various apologies for absence were received (some prior to the meeting) and listed.
3. **Minutes Of Previous AGM** – The minutes of the previous AGM (March 2019) were unanimously adopted. (proposed - Donald Reid, seconded - David Landes). There were no Matters Arising.
4. **Chairman's Report – David Eddleston** – Key points were as follows :
 - Following our return to face-to-face bridge, it has been a successful year for the club, with numbers rising on Tuesday evenings and particularly on Thursday mornings.
 - Membership rose in 2022, with approximately 60 new members joining the club. In the past 3 months, approximately 183 different members had played in the various club sessions out of a total membership of 375.
 - The club ran a successful teaching programme for both beginners and improvers, along with some supervised play.
 - Alan Hudson had provided a Competition Secretary's report for 2020 and 2021, and the winners and club performances were announced.
 - Thanks were given to Ros Campbell and Tony Osborne for their work throughout the year, to all those running sessions, to those involved in the Learning & Development Programme, and to all those who help set up and clear away the refreshments and equipment.
5. **Bridge Sessions / Events** – During the Chairman's Report, there was a discussion regarding possible future sessions and events.
 - It was suggested that the club might run a Swiss Pairs event (as in the past), possibly 4 times a year.
 - The possibility of extra sessions was raised. Currently, the only available time at the Church would be Monday mornings. A Gentle Monday morning session may be viable if the club can find enough directors and scorers to run it.
 - The members who play online on Friday evenings were asked whether they favoured Cross-IMP scoring or Matchpoint Pairs. There was a slight preference for Matchpoint Pairs.
 - The possibility of having occasional Teams of 4 sessions on Tuesdays evenings was also suggested, and also the idea of having a Teams ladder with the matches played online at the players' convenience.
 - It was also suggested that perhaps the online Supervised Play session could be opened up to more of the membership.

6. **Financial Report and motion to adopt the Accounts** – The Financial Reports for 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 prepared by Ros Campbell had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman stated that we have considerable funds in the bank, but with rising energy costs and inflation, we anticipate that the rent of the church hall is likely to increase considerably. We also plan to purchase new tables for the club. The Independent Examiners (Anojan Pothalingam & Russell Lebe) had signed the Accounts and it was agreed unanimously that the Accounts as tabled be approved and adopted (proposed - Donald Reid, seconded – Alan Hudson).
7. **Changes to the Constitution** – The Committee proposed 2 changes to the constitution :

1. Section 6 - The following wording

“ii The day-to-day control of all monies and of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all subscriptions, table monies and other monies due to the Club, the payment of all accounts and the keeping of books of account and shall present statements of accounts to the Committee and a report and audited accounts to each AGM.

iii. The accounts shall be audited annually. The auditor shall be appointed annually at the A.G.M and shall not be a member of the committee.”

to be replaced by

“ii The day-to-day control of all monies and of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all subscriptions, table monies and other monies due to the Club, the payment of all accounts and the keeping of books of account and shall present statements of accounts to the Committee and a report and **independently examined** accounts to each AGM.

iii. The accounts shall be **independently reviewed** annually. The independent examiner shall be appointed annually at the A.G.M and shall not be a member of the committee.”

2. Section 7 - The following wording

“The quorum for an AGM shall be 40 members or one-fifth of the membership, whichever is fewer.”

to be replaced by

“The quorum for an AGM shall be **20** members or **one-tenth** of the membership, whichever is fewer.”

Both changes were passed unanimously.

8. **Annual Membership Fee** – The committee proposed that the annual subscription for the year 2023 to be set at £0. This was passed unanimously. In January, the Membership Secretary, Jennifer Munitz, will contact all the members to confirm renewal of their membership for 2023.
9. **Election Of Officers** – Richard Banbury has decided to stand down from the committee. He was thanked for his directing and tournament secretary services over the years.

David Eddleston stood down as Chairman, and was then nominated to re-stand as **Chairman** (proposed – Tony Osborne, seconded – Alan Hudson). He was re-elected unanimously followed by applause from the membership.

The remainder of the committee were unanimously elected en bloc (proposed – David Eddleston, seconded – Alastair Allan) :

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| Secretary | Russell Lebe |
| Treasurer | Rosalind Campbell |
| General Manager | Tony Osborne |
| Learning & Development Officer | Rosalind Campbell |
| Competition & Tournament Secretary | Alan Hudson |
| Technical Director | Keith Ashman |
| Membership & Social Secretary | Jennifer Munitz |
| Committee Members | David Landes, Stuart Leigh |

John Whiting volunteered to take on the role of **Independent Examiner** and was elected unanimously (proposed – David Eddleston, seconded – Russell Lebe).

10. **Any Other Business** – It was highlighted that there is a lack of BridgeMate scorers at the club, and the following members indicated that they would be willing to be trained as scorers :

Russell Lebe
Nick Ratliff
Stuart Leigh
John Whiting
Jennifer Munitz

A member asked whether the club was receiving much interest on its money in the bank. Tony Osborne replied that most of the money was receiving some interest from a Nationwide account, but now that interest rates were rising, the Treasurer is planning to find an account which pays a better rate – possibly Redwood Bank.

With there being no further questions, the meeting was closed at 7.15 pm.