

Minutes of Annual General Meeting - Watford and Bushey Bridge Club

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 6.30 pm

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

1. **Opening** - The meeting was opened by the Chairman (Alan Hudson) with over 40 members present. This was above the quorum required of 20 members so the meeting could proceed. By the end of the meeting, the number of members present was more than 60.
2. **Apologies For Absence** – Various apologies for absence were received prior to the meeting and when it commenced.
3. **Minutes Of Previous AGM** – The minutes of the previous AGM (November 2023) were unanimously adopted. (proposed – David Landes, seconded – Stuart Leigh). There were no Matters Arising.
4. **Chairman's Report – Alan Hudson** – Key points were as follows:
 - Very successful year for the club. We are one of the fastest growing clubs in the country.
 - Membership rose since the last AGM to 410, A net gain of 26 new members since the last AGM.
 - The club has continued to build on 3 face to face sessions every week with an average of just over 200 people playing per week.
 - The sessions on Tuesday evening and Thursday morning continue to grow. Tuesday evening averaging 13. Thursday morning averaging 20 tables.
 - Monday morning has gone from strength to strength averaging 8.5 tables but has been up to 15 recently.
 - The combined Friday evening with Harlow Knights Bridge Club has been very successful averaging 9 tables.
 - We are also running online supervised play and a very popular teaching programme with both beginners and improvers. Since our last AGM we have been running teams of 4 on 5th Tuesdays and playing more simultaneous pairs events. I have had a lot of direct feedback for both which appear to be popular and well supported by members.
 - On the county bridge scene, the club has been well represented by teams in the Eccles Cup, the county team leagues, and the county teams of 8 for the Desmond Flockhart Trophy which we won and will represent Hertfordshire in the Garden Cities Trophy.
 - None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of your committee members, directors, scorers, tutors, table money collectors, refreshment providers and those who regularly arrive early to set up the tables and equipment. A very big thank you to all of you who give your time for free for the benefit of the club.
 - A special thank you to our new director Philip Bond who has completed the EBU Directors course and joined the team.

- Also, a very big thank you to the team that have made Monday morning such a success. Jennifer Munitz, Philip Bond, Susan Obrart, Allan Lipton, Russell Lebe and John Pelley.
- I also would like to thank Jennifer Munitz and David Landes for improving our social life with splendid parties. Not only has Jennifer organised social gatherings but she has raised money with her bridge lunch at the Blue Check and afternoon tea at Bentley Priory.
- The 200 people who come through our doors every week have a voracious appetite for tea, coffee and biscuits and we only have this thanks to the team that provide all the refreshments. Beryl Douglas, Mo Ashman and Dara Godivala.
- I must also thank our teaching and development team ably led by Ros Campbell who is also club treasurer and puts in many hours on behalf of the club.

5. Reports

- **Competition Secretary** – This was circulated to all members with the agenda and minutes. Congratulations to all our winners. Trophies will be presented at the end of the meeting.
- **Membership Secretary**- This was also circulated to all members.
- **Learning and Development Officer**-It has been a very busy year with Improvers Lessons being very oversubscribed. A big thank you to Graham Phillips for all his help with everything. I would also like to thank for running and helping with the beginners' lesson Graham Phillips, Alan Saffer, John Whiting, Fiona Goldsmith and Russell Lebe. For the improvers lesson I would like to thank Chris Pratt, Graham Phillips, Philip Bond, Nick Ratliff and Tony Osborne. For the online session I would like to thank John Whiting. I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the summer supervised play. The Tuesday gentle duplicate session is going very well with 19 people from the improvers lesson having played in it.
 - **Financial Report and motion to adopt the Accounts** – The Financial Reports for last year prepared by Ros Campbell had been circulated prior to the meeting. Various things were pointed out including the purchase of a new Dealing Machine, that table money was over £26,000 and that various packs of cards had been changed and that the club had purchased new tables. The Independent Examiner John Whiting has signed the Accounts, and it was agreed unanimously that the Accounts as tabled be approved and adopted (proposed – David Eddleston, seconded – David Landes). John Whiting was thanked and agreed to continue as Independent Examiner.

6. Annual Membership Fee and table money- No changes

7. **Cashless Bridge**- Two items were discussed. What were the implications of a cashless bridge system, and does the membership want the committee to further investigate and formulate a proposal. Many things were asked and discussed including that members would be sent statements at the end of the month to settle, whether

people could tap on a credit card machine, that many clubs were already cashless, could there be a problem with people not paying and could people deposit money in advance. Susan Mount said we should use whatever system the Treasurer was happy with. Jim Blair agreed to help with any queries and to chase the money. A vote was taken, and a majority of members wanted the committee to pursue this.

8. **Election Of Officers** – The committee was elected on bloc (proposed – John Pelley seconded – Susan Mount)

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

7. **Election of Independent Examiner**- John Whitting was proposed by Alan Lipton and seconded by Nick Ratliff.

8. **Any other business**-- Victor Zaum thanked all the committee on behalf of all club members for all their hard work. He then asked with such a large cash balance, should we not be giving more donations to charities which were supported by the members. He also said members should be reminded of bridge etiquette, which was again supported by members.

With there being no further questions, the meeting was closed at 7.25 pm.