

WEST SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of the West Sussex Bridge Club
held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at The Old School, Cuckfield

Present: Neil Watts, Chairman
Chris Jago, Secretary
Rob Harris, Treasurer
+38 Club Members

1. Apologies for Absence

John Beaumont, Eric Jenner, Robert Jenner, Andrew Southwell, Peter Collins, Joan Collins, Chris Gray, Suzy Gray, Valerie Austin, Jonathan Emmerson, Jill Butcher, Caroline Exall, Dilys Jones, Chris Jepson.

2. To take as read the Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held on 3rd May 2022

Acceptance of the Minutes was agreed by all.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

4. To receive the Chairman's Report

The Chairman drew attention to his report, which had been previously circulated, highlighting the following points:

- Sadly David Locke, Shirley Robinson, Margaret Collins and Ann Hunt had died during the last year.
- The series of competitions held during the year had helped encourage a more robust attendance.
- Whilst members had not been very active in county and national competitions, there had been some notable results.
- Thanks given to Hazel Beveridge and Suzy Gray who had stood down as Committee members. In recognition of her many years as Club Secretary, Hazel was also awarded Life Membership to universal acclaim. Also special thanks to those members who helped in various ways who were not on the Committee.
- Very pleased that Colin Mallows and Mark Darby had volunteered to join the Committee but there remains a need for at least one more and also volunteers to take on directing duties.
- The Bournemouth Bridge holiday was a sell out and proved to be a great success.
- A hope that the coming year would see a further increase in attendance.

5. To receive and, if thought fit, approve the Treasurer's Report and the independently examined accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

The Treasurer presented his report, explaining that the Club's expenditure had exceeded income by £619 during the year. The main reason was the income from voucher sales and subscriptions did not cover the cost of hiring The Old School, EBU, insurance, etc., but this was partly covered by the profit made from the Bournemouth bridge holiday. The total assets stood at £305,496.

In response to questions from the floor, the meeting was advised that there were no plans at present for what to do with the high cash balance and the money was held with a number of financial institutions

at the best interest rates available at the time of making the deposit whilst keeping the maximum with one institution below £85k.

Acceptance of the report and accounts was proposed by Peter Bates, seconded by Carol Watson and agreed.

6. To approve the appointment of Robin Parris as Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the forthcoming year

Robin Parris' appointment was proposed by Carol Watson, seconded by Alan Gardiner, and agreed unanimously.

7. To confirm the Annual Subscription for the year would remain at £15, reduced to £12.50 if paid by 31st May

Agreed.

8. To elect Officers and Committee Members

Secretary Chris Jago (re-elected unopposed)

Treasurer Rob Harris (re-elected unopposed)

Committee 6 nominations were received and a ballot is therefore not necessary. The following are duly elected: Ed Barter, Brian Cutler, Robert Hirst, Jane Lawrence, Colin Mallows and Mark Darby. (The Chairman, Neil Watts, is serving a 3-year term and did not need re-electing.)

The officers and Committee members were re-elected by a show of hands.

9. To note the Competition Structure for the forthcoming year

The meeting was advised that the monthly Tuesday evening handicap prize would continue for the time being but the other prizes on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings were being discontinued. However, in an effort to stimulate increased attendance, two random prizes of unlimited free plays for the following month would be offered monthly to members who attend at least three times in the preceding month. The winners would be chosen from a "picker-wheel" and this was demonstrated to select the April winner. As an additional demonstration, the Chairman also gave a bottle of champagne to a member chosen on the picker-wheel for attending the AGM.

It was agreed that the number of trophies awarded in the past was excessive but the Committee would consider whether there was scope for any annual competitions.

10. To consider any other matter a member may raise, and discussion thereof, which is deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the meeting and by two thirds of those present

A vote of thanks from the floor was given for the Committee for their efforts in building up attendance following the effects of the Covid lockdown.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm and was followed by two and a half hours of bridge.