

Worcester Bridge Club

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at Claines starting at 19:00

1. Apologies

Russell Emery, Lindsay Buxton, Mike & Betty Payne, Steve Allerston, Trish Mann, Helen Cameron, Joyce Skelton, Mike Willoughby, Liz & Mike Griffiths, Chris Boyd, Bill & Chris Powell, Nick Forward, Rob Cookson, Jan Cole.

There were 34 members present.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted - proposed Steve Simmonds, seconded John D. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

Table Numbers

Table numbers across the two weekly sessions increasing from 13 p/w to nearly 16.5, showing an appetite for F2F. Wednesdays are quieter though average tables have increased by 20% (from 4.6 to 5.5) across 2023 vs 2022, whilst Tue also increased by over 20% from 9 to 11. Nevertheless, we need to work hard to make sure we keep evening F2F bridge alive. Most important of all, the atmosphere has been friendly. Please give Wednesday evenings a try.

People

We sadly lost two people from the Club last year, in Suzanne Griffin and Lyn Jackson, both original members of the club from 1989, and also a more recent member from Tuesdays, Edward Sage.

Meanwhile we keep seeing NEW faces and returning faces – eg Simon Smith a total beginner from last March, now a regular face at Tue sessions, and Brenda Owen-Jones, back to us after a 10+ year absence; and many more newcomers, either new to the game or experienced players new to the Worcester area. Total membership for 2023 was up from 143 to 164, and renewals for 2024 are again up slightly as of April 1st.

Highlights

In March we had another successful and much-appreciated Andrew Robson seminar everything. We continue to keep a distant contact with our “twin” French club in Romorantin, via our Christmas “SIM”. We had a first ever “Summer Special”, inspired and organised by Maureen, which was a great success.

The activities of the Club are very dependent on a great team of both Committee and non-Committee helpers, from those doing the sums, scoring, directing, washing up to those buying biscuits and stationery and engraving trophies; this has been a brilliant team, and thanks are due to a lot of people.

On the competitive front, WBC has proved itself strong in the various Inter-Club events, especially the Teams competitions where we won the Triple Crown of Healey Cup (Brian, Bryan, John and Mike), the Ron Allen (Jimmy, Maureen, Rob, Jane, Mike, Alan, John and Brian) and the Inter-Club Teams (Jimmy, Maureen, Geoffrey, Steve and Alan); and in the Club Representative Pairs, Mick and Gerald came in in 2nd place.

4. Treasurer's report

Headline:

The Club continues to be financially sound with substantial assets.

Last year we agreed to work to progressively reduce our total assets towards a target of £10,000, whilst trying to increase playing numbers. We have reduced our table money to £2.00 and also held a number of special events and parties as part of the process. The result has been an overall deficit of £249 for the year. This comprises £793 operating deficit improved by £544 deposit account interest. The club now has total assets of £19,937, comprising £16119 on deposit with the balance in our current account plus net debtors. We also raised £721 (including gift aid) for Children in Need.

Going into some detail:

- on-line bridge made a surplus of £230
- Tuesday afternoon F2F made a contribution of £236

- Wednesday evening F2F made a loss of £1234
- Teaching made a surplus of £338
- The Robson Seminar made a surplus of £802
- We spent £1059 on competitions including prizes
- We spent £831 on Parties and special events

Tables per session averaged 11.3 on Tuesday afternoon and 5.7 on Wednesday evening.

Comparing with 2022 on-line play has reduced by about 60%, Tuesday Face to Face is up by 31% and Wednesday Face to Face is up by 24%. Financially the F2F increases have more than offset the on-line decrease.

Because of the profit from the Robson seminar and the increase in Face to Face play we have only seen a small reduction in our overall assets. I recommend that we maintain the £2.00 table money and continue to hold special events for the next year. If numbers remain stable, then without the seminar profit, we will see a larger asset reduction in 2024.

A copy of the accounts for 2023 is attached.

The accounts were accepted - proposed Richard, seconded George.

Janette asked if there was any plan to reduce the amount of money held. The treasurer said we would continue with present plan of low table money and additional special events. The position would need to be kept under review.

5. Election of officers and committee members

Maureen has decided to step down from the committee and Mark thanked her for her many years of contribution to the committee.

Mark is resigning as chairman and David resigning as treasurer.

The proposal from the committee was that George and Alan should become committee members. Mike will become chairman and George will take over as treasurer. Other officers will remain the same for the time being.

This proposal was accepted by the meeting - proposed Pete C, seconded Dick.

Steve made the point that any member who was interested in joining the committee should make it known as there is space for other members.

6. Appointment of an independent verifier of accounts

Dick Rutter agreed to continue in this role for another year whilst George takes over as treasurer.

7. AOB

Venue for AGM:

There has been an expression of the view that the venue for the AGM could alternate between Claines and Hallow in order to include more of the Tuesday regulars.

There was general agreement that this was a good idea including Janette and Yvette. The committee are also generally in favour. Jimmy suggested that a decision needed only be made on a year by year basis.

There was a suggestion that there might be a separate trophy evening.

Dick asked if there was any provision for voting by proxy.

The new committee will discuss this matter further including whether any change to the constitution will be necessary.

There was no further AOB.

8. Presentation of trophies

The trophies for last years competitions were presented. A list of the winners is on the website.

There being no further business the meeting was closed and bridge was played.