

Worcester Bridge Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 27th February 2013 at British Legion Club Claines

1. Apologies:

The following members offered their apologies: Richard Jephcott, David Thomas, Sue Phillips, Ross Garratt, Mel Downing.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Feb 27th 2012:

There were no corrections to these minutes. Dick Rutter proposed that the minutes should be accepted. Tim Keates seconded this proposal and it was agreed unanimously by all the members present.

3. Chairman's Report:

1) Thanks: As always, thank-you's are due to many people!:

- Linda and Tony for their unstinting work in setting up the room and collecting table money every week
- Rufus who has continued to develop the TryDuplicate with great success
- Directors: Sue Lane (Chief TD), Paul H, Jimmy, Paul T, Helen, and Mike T; and congratulations to Andy O'Hare and Dick Rutter, who have qualified this year, and are now part of the regular team
- Paul H, Andy O'H, and Paul T for their work on scoring
- To all committee members, especially Jane for highly efficient work as Secretary, Lorna for continued for excellent Treasury work, and Andy C for keeping us in stationery and communications
- All who have done their bit as hosts this year. Because of falling membership hosting will be slightly more frequent next year but should still not be too arduous for those involved.
- Thanks to our barman Dave for all he does to make us welcome.

2) Congratulations:

Worcester BC's representative pairs and teams had an excellent year:

- Two teams competed in the Garden Cities Qualifier in April; Sue Evans' team finished in 4th place, and Jimmy Ledger's team again won the event, thereby capturing the Ron Allen Trophy, and earning qualification for the Regional Heat Of the Garden Cities Trophy; the winning team were: Jimmy Ledger (captain) + David Thomas; John Sansom + Richard Jephcott; Mel Downing + Ross Garratt; Nick Forward + Steve Allerston. This team went on to storm the Regional Final of the GC, thus qualifying for the National Final; in the Final, Pam Pearce came into the team, which finished in 5th place. Well done to all, and good luck to our 2013 teams!

- In November, our team of Jimmy Ledger, David Thomas, Ross Garratt and Mel Downing were in fine form, bringing back the trophy to Worcester.
- In the 2013 Club Championship Pairs recently, our three pairs finished 6th, 11th and 19th; unfortunately, we didn't manage to retain the trophy which Sue Lane and Ray Foulds won for us in 2012
- Mention should also be made of Lorna Fellows and Terry Collins, who won the Irene Allen Trophy in October
- We have three entries from WBC in the National Inter-Club Knock-out in 2013; Worcester B (Ledger, Thomas, Downing, Garratt) and Worcester C (Pearce, Evans, Loynes, Foulds, Skelton) are both through to Rd 3 of the NICKO plate; Worcester A (Sansom, Jephcott, Forward + Allerston) are facing Hereford in the 4th rd of the main competition. We wish all these teams well in the coming rounds.

Congratulations also to all the winners of the Club's internal trophies.

3) Departures and Arrivals:

At the last AGM, we remembered four former members of the Club who had passed away; I'm pleased to report that this year has been a happier time for the Club: nevertheless, we have seen some members move away to other clubs, whilst some new faces have joined us.

In particular, it has been good to see players venture "up" from the Try-Duplicate. It has been pleasing to see regular players offer to play with those wanting to play in the Main Section, and I have proposed to the Committee that we include in the next Calendar year a main room Pairs night where we encourage TryDup graduates to join us, perhaps with a Level 3 system limit; it would be good if some newcomers played as pairs, but equally it would be especially nice if regular club members offered to play with some individual newcomers.

4) New Initiatives:

Try-Duplicate continues to thrive, and we have recently added in extra months, to meet the increasing demand.

Seminar: Last year's March 10th Seminar with Mike Theelke was a sell-out, and considered by all a huge success, and the next one (in April) has again sold out.

In anticipation of the celebration of our 25th year, we have (huge thanks to Jane for this) secured Andrew Robson for a two-part Seminar in November: this is about to go live, and so members are urged to grab their chance for early-booking priority!

4. Treasurer's Report:

I would like to begin with thanking two members of the bridge club who make the job of treasurer a lot easier. Firstly Linda's contribution in collecting the money most weeks and

presenting me with a small bag makes the job a great deal easier, and Denis's help with auditing the accounts is also appreciated.

I will start with some good news – we had more income in 2012 than in 2011.

This was mainly due to the Mike Theelke seminar run in March last year, and of course the costs for the seminar need to be put against this income –the seminar did make £60.

The previous year's costs in 2011 were very much higher because of the purchase of Bridgemates. However in 2012 the costs of the EBU Pay to Play are higher, as are duplicated boards, and of course training – we sent Andy O'Hare and Dick Rutter on directors' courses in January.

The interest rate on our savings in the Barclays 10 day premium account is currently 1.09% so interest income is down in 2012.

If I can take off my Treasurer's hat for a moment and replace it with my Membership Secretary's hat - Membership numbers were down slightly in 2012 compared with 2011 from 94 down to 87, however I am concerned that so far this year in 2013 we only have 68 members who have joined. Obviously members do join and rejoin throughout the year, but this is down by about ten from numbers joined at this stage of the year in 2012. This is something we intend to discuss in the next committee meeting.

We also need to allow for increased rent in 2013 as the Royal British Legion Club have put the price up to £45 per night, but this is the first rise after three years of using their wonderful facilities.

Overall the club made a loss of £154 in the year, which while a little worrying, is in fact £30 less than the cost of the free drink for everyone at the Christmas party – so I hope you all enjoyed it!

5. Appointment of the Auditor:

The Chairman thanked Dennis Loynes for auditing the accounts of 2010 and suggested that he be appointed the auditor for the coming year. This was formally proposed by Mike Vetch, seconded by Maureen Hannah and unanimously agreed by the members present.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The members who have volunteered to stand for 2012 are:

Chairman	Mike Vetch
Treasurer	Lorna Fellows
Secretary	Jane Rutter
Committee Member	Andy O'Hare
Committee Member	Andy Cullen
Committee Member	Rufus Ulyet
Committee member	Tim Keates

The committee was elected on bloc, proposed by Marian Wilcox and seconded by Sue Evans.

8. Presentation of the trophies

Mike presented the trophies to all the winners who were present:-

- Championship pairs (Skelton Trophy) – John Sansom & Richard Jephcott
- Championship pairs playoff (Tom Mackie Cup) – John Sansom & Richard Jephcott
- Individual Championship (Ruskin Shield) – David Thomas
- Individual Championship improver – Vic Laver
- Championship Teams – Paul Tapster & Lyn Jackson, Heidi Collier and Jane Morton
- Ladies pairs – Maureen Hannah & Jane Rutter
- Men's pairs – Nick Forward & Steve allerston
- Mixed pairs (Hubert Nunn cup) – Dick & Jane Rutter
- Try Duplicate Cup – Eric Williams

10. Any Other Business

Sue Evans suggested that the individual trophy should only be won by a person who had played with more than one other player. The chairman agreed to bring this up at a subsequent committee meeting. There was no other business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.25.