

# **Worcester Bridge Club**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 26th February 2014 at British Legion Club Claines

### **1. Apologies:**

The following members offered their apologies: Ray Foulds, David Thomas, Nick Forward, Eleanor Greaves, Sue Evans, Dennis Loynes, Ross Garratt, Mel Downing, Eric Myers.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on Feb 27th 2013:**

There were no corrections to these minutes. Sue Lane proposed that the minutes should be accepted. Maureen Ledger seconded this proposal and it was agreed unanimously by all the members present.

### **3. Chairman's Report:**

1) The Chairman thanked all those who had helped the club this year and made particular mention of the following:-

- Fellow committee members, this year and all others over the past five years for their patience and large contributions.
- In particular, key officers who are leaving the committee this year, namely Jane who has done two years as secretary, including her work on two sell-out seminars; and Lorna, who has done five years of outstanding efficiency with a friendly face; leaving the finances of the club now in rude health.
- From outside the Committee, the club owes an enormous debt to both Tony and Linda Gervis, who, unseen by most, lay the room out every week. Linda has also acted as our front-of-house for the last eight years. Linda has retired from her duties, and collected her last table-money – the club owes her a huge special vote of thanks.
- The committee is lucky to have a willing volunteer to step straight into Linda's shoes, and Terry Collins was thanked in advance for this.
- Also outside the Committee, the Club owes a large debt of gratitude to Paul Hammond who does so much behind the scenes, with Scoring, P2P, website tech issues, and more;
- To all our directors - notably Paul Hammond, Sue Lane, Jimmy Ledger, Paul Tapster, Helen Cameron, Dick Rutter and Andy OHare, as well as Mike Theelke for some special events.
- To Pam Pearce as ever for her fantastic Christmas parties.
- And of course to our brilliant bar-steward Dave, ably assisted by his two sons – we're very lucky to have them.

2) Congratulations were made to all who have had successes outside the Club, too numerous to mention; but especially to John Sansom and Richard Jephcott, who last weekend won the premier Grand Masters Pairs.

3) Special mention was made of the superb seminar with A Robson OBE; it will be up to the new committee to judge whether to go for another one this November, when the club celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

- 4) The other big “thing” of the year has been the start of Inter-Bridge, which has been a great success, seeing table numbers rise from approx. 10 per week last year to 14 per week in the last 3 months. Thanks were given to all club members for welcoming everyone so well.
- 5) Best wishes to the new committee: especially to Joyce Skelton – The Retiring Chair commented that Worcester Bridge Club is very lucky to have Joyce as the new Chair, and he wished her and the new team all the very best.

Flowers or wine were presented to Linda, Mike, Jane and Lorna in recognition of their contributions to the club over so many years. Terry Collins thanked Mike for his sterling work and outstanding effort in so many ways. He has initiated the introduction of the inter section and has done much more than a Chairman’s role whilst holding a full time job.

#### **4. Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer distributed copies of the accounts for 2013 and commented that 2013 has been the most successful year of the last five, with the accounts showing a surplus of £1,180. There has also been the highest number of members in 2013 at 117.

The financial improvement has been in large part due to the efforts of two people. Mike Vetch has been the driving force behind introducing Intermediate Bridge to the club, so giving us additional table money each week, and encouraging many more people to join. Back in 2012 Jane had the idea of asking Andrew Robson to give a seminar to celebrate the club’s 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. As we know, this was very popular and raised over £700.

The treasurer gave particular thanks to Linda Gervis for her sterling service collecting the table money at the door each week.

#### **5. Appointment of the Auditor:**

The Chairman thanked Dennis Loynes for auditing the accounts of 2013 and suggested that he be appointed the auditor for the coming year. This was formally proposed by Joyce Skelton, seconded by Eric Williams and unanimously agreed by the members present.

#### **6. Resolution: Constitutional Amendment**

(Committee proposal – Proposed Mike Vetch, seconded Lorna Fellows)

Existing text:

*(7.1.) The Committee of the Club shall consist of the Officers of the Club, together with four other members of the Club, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club, and shall retire annually at the ensuing Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election.*

*(7.2.) The Committee may from time to time co-opt further members of the Club to serve on the Committee until the ensuing Annual General Meeting, whether to fill a vacancy arising, or as additional members, except that the total number of members of the Committee (including Officers) shall at no time exceed ten...*

Proposed amendment:

Replace “...together with four other members of the Club” with “a minimum of four, maximum seven other members of the Club”;

Mike explained that the Club has become bigger and more complex with the addition of a second section, and it would be better not to turn away new-blood volunteers by elections at AGM. The motion was carried *nem con*.

## **7. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The members who have volunteered to stand for 2014 are:

Chairman	Joyce Skelton
Treasurer	Dick Rutter
Secretary	Pam Pearce
Committee Member	Andy O'Hare
Committee Member	Andy Cullen
Committee Member	Rufus Ulyet
Committee Member	Tim Keates
Committee Member	Jane Morton
Committee Member	Cathy Geer
Committee Member	Mike Vetch

The committee was elected on bloc, proposed by Mike Vetch and seconded by Jane Rutter.

## **8. Presentation of the trophies**

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

Pairs Ladder (Skelton Trophy)	Jane Morton & Susan Sharp
Championship Pairs Final (Tom Mackie Cup)	Derrick McClelland & Ray Miller
Teams (Hubert Nunn Cup)	Ray Foulds & Dennis Loynes, Jane Morton & Pam Pearce
Mixed Pairs (John Cattnach Cup)	John Sansom & Susan Sharp
Individual trophy	David Thomas
Men's Pairs	Paul Hammond & David Thomas
Ladies' Pairs	Helen Cameron & Trish Mann/ Susan Sharp & Pam Pearce
Intermediate Cup	John Brown
Try Duplicate Cup	Mike Houghton

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm.