

WORCESTER BRIDGE CLUB

Annual General Meeting, held at 18:00 on Wed 7th April 2021 via Zoom

Minutes

1. Apologies

Brian Avery, Steve Allerston, David Thomas.
30 people attended.

2. Minutes of previous AGM held on Wed 19th February 2020

Proposed (David Waide) and seconded (Maureen Ledger).

3. Chairman's Report

See attached report (Appendix 1).

Planning for a return to F2F; some virtual bridge has attracted visitors from Germany, Cambridge and Scotland.

20 new members, ex-beginners – generally finding it an easier move to the Club than when Club was F2F?

4. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts

See attached report (Appendix 2); proposed (Paul Greaves) and seconded (Josie Watson)

Finances are sound despite Covi-19. When F2F restarts, if we have reduced numbers because people prefer Virtual, then we could see a loss of £1500 as a worst case. Recommendation is for no change to subs or table money, which decision is to be reviewed in 2022.

5. Constitutional Amendment

Passed unanimously by the Meeting.

Vice-Chair added as 4th officer of the Club, and Officers can change role to another Office after the term of 5 years.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Anthony Baines has joined as Treasurer; Roland Draper has joined, making 10 in total.

7. Appointment of Auditor

Dick Rutter is remaining as Auditor. Thanks were recorded for his excellent work.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Mixed Pairs

John Cattnach Trophy

Chris and Joyce Skelton

Flitch

Dennis Loynes and Sue Evans

No other competitions run; Men's and Ladies' Pairs scheduled for online in May 2021

9. Motions

None

10. AOB

Thanks to Mike Vetch for all arrangements in the last year, especially the Tuesday Social.

Question from Trish Mann – have we considered the RealBridge platform? Secretary note – see MOM of Committee Meetings, where this is being monitored and we are remaining with BCL at present.

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report AGM April 2021

- Some of the challenges we had a year ago regarding ensuring that WBC is a friendly and welcoming place for all still remain
- Re-opening and return to F2F will also present challenges, but we will ensure that everything is done safely
- WBC members have risen to the MAJOR challenge of the last year, over 100 WBC players engaging in a wide range of formats online: Pairs Leagues, Teams Leagues, Virtual Club nights, one-off events such as Teams night and Mixed Pairs Comp, possibly the most successful being the Tuesday morning "Social";
- Additionally, loads of bridge has been played via BCL DDO and other comps, as well as private tables in the Social Room. In all, our members have played over 250,000 hands on BCL as well as some on other sites.
- We have welcomed guests such as David + Sarah Halford from Bewdley, Eddy from Droitwich, Barbara, Keith, Clive and Brett from Bromsgrove, and Clive Owen from outside of the County.
- Nevertheless, we want above all to renew battle with Matt + Geoffrey, our reigning double Pairs champions, as well as Paul Hammond, Sue Lane, Paul Tapster and too many others to mention; so we look forward to resumption of F2F. We are beginning to plan for return, sensibly and safely, aware that things will be different, and that we will need to integrate online and F2F.
- Against this, online play has broken down geographical barriers, so we have been able to play with/against Ray Foulds in the North of Scotland, Peter Ford in Cambridge, and even Christoph Malik in Nuremburg.
- We have lost people this year: Chris and Barbara Frohlich have moved away from the area, as has Andy O'Hare; sadly we lost **Jessie Newton**, a founder member and a superb player, who passed away at the age of 97; **Margaret Davies**, a Tuesday regular, and former member **Alan Reid**.
- On the positive side, we've welcomed some twenty NEW members, many fresh from beginners classes; in particular Anthony Baines, who joined us just before lockdown and is set to become our new Treasurer. Curiously, recent learners have in fact found it easier to move from class to club in the online environment, no doubt the fact that they are not faced with a roomful of frowning, serious-looking players, some saying "I reserve my rights" and "I may have been damaged!"
- Other positives: one of two Worcester teams (Jimmy + David, Richard + John, Nick + Steve, Joyce + Chris) won a hard-fought shoot-out to earn the right to represent Worcs in the Garden Cities- we wish them well! Three WBC teams entered the NICKO: all have succumbed now, though the "A" team lost by just 1 IMP!
- Finally, thanks are due: huge thanks to David, retiring as treasurer after a 25-month "year"! and Dick for auditing. Also to all the Cttee for their support, help and advice. And to helpers from outside the Cttee, Dick and Nick in the running of online leagues, and Steve Kennewell for running the VClub nights.

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report as at 31-01-2021

The club's finances continue in a sound condition, despite the disruption of Covid. The significant changes from 2019 are due to the cessation of face to face bridge. Our income for the past year was £95 higher than our costs, and we have a balance of £16,891 comprising £15,517 on deposit, with the rest in our current account and owed as interest.

One point to note is that whilst the accounts show no charity donations the SIM nights in November raised £1500 for Children in Need, between 5 clubs including ours.

Due to the disruption to bridge in 2020 the committee has agreed that all paid up members from 2020 will not have to pay a membership fee for 2021.

When we emerge from lockdown we are looking forward to resuming face to face bridge. It is possible when this happens that F2F numbers may be lower than previously and that some members will wish to continue on line. I have done a worst case analysis based on resuming with 2 sessions a week with only half the tables of 2019. This shows that with our normal charges and costs we would lose about £1500 per full year. With our substantial financial reserves even this pessimistic scenario would not be a problem in the short term. I therefore recommend that we continue our current F2F charging structure unchanged for the next year whilst we adapt to a new normal. We can then make adjustments in 2022 and beyond if this proves necessary.

David Waide