

WORCESTER BRIDGE CLUB

Annual General Meeting, held at 19:00 on Wed 21st February 2018 at the

British Legion Club, Claines

Minutes

1. Apologies

John Sansom, Stewart Fishburne, Joyce Skelton, Lollie Turner, Rosie Cannon, Mike Willoughby, Barbara Ramsden, Dorothy Robinson, Elaine Bell, Andy Cullen, Ele Greaves, Helen Cameron, Bill Chandler, Francis Jacobsen, Hillke Ibrahim, Pat King, Paul Hammond, Sally Kelly, Yvette Waide

2. Minutes of previous AGM, held on Wed 22nd February 2017

Proposed and seconded

3. Chairman's Report

See report in appendix 1; proposed and seconded

4. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts

See report in appendix 2; proposed and seconded

5. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The existing members can remain on the Committee including George who was co-opted, but with Tim leaving, whilst continuing to help out. David Waide, John Dowbiggin and Janette Torrance have offered to join; proposed and seconded.

Full Committee:

Mike Vetch, Chair
Dick Rutter, Treasurer
Mark Askwith, Secretary
Andy Cullen
Maureen Ledger
Richard Arrowsmith
George Jeffrey
David Waide
Janette Torrance
John Dowbiggin

6. Appointment of Auditor

Thanks to Dennis for auditing and who can do this again next year

7. Presentation of Trophies

Tom Mackie Cup	Pairs Finals Night	Jimmy Ledger & Paul Hammond
<i>WBC Challenge Cup</i>	<i>Intermediates</i>	<i>Not Played</i>
Skelton Trophy	Pairs Championship	Jimmy Ledger & Paul Hammond
Individual Shield		Jimmy Ledger
Ladies Pairs Salver		Jane Rutter & Maureen Ledger
Men's Pairs Salver		Dennis Loynes & Steve Kennewell
Mixed Pairs	John Cattnach Trophy	Pam Pearce & Dennis Loynes
WBC TryDuplicate Cup		Josie Watson
City Cup	Christmas Pairs	Marion Wilcox & Jane Morton
Teams	Herbert Nunn Cup	Dick & Jane Rutter
		Mike Vetch & Tim Keates

8. Proposals

- 8.1 *That regular WBC Wednesday sessions should start at 7:20 pm*
Decision 2 for the motion and all others against; start time to remain at 19:30
- 8.2 *That the Committee endeavours to ensure that all players get to play a minimum of 24 boards wherever possible*
Decision to allow Committee to decide – two-thirds in favour, one-third against
- 8.3 *Proposal to increase the table money to £3.00 (from £2.50) for members, £4.00 (from £3.50) for guests, and no change (£1.00) for juniors*
This would allow us to bring Wednesdays in line with Tuesday afternoons, with tea/coffee included in the table money. Decision to increase table money as above, with all but 1 in favour

9. AOB

- 9.1 David Thomas discussion point:
Anybody who acts as a host should be considered to be a bona fide club member and eligible to represent Worcester in any County or EBU competition.
An informal show of hands showed 6 in favour, others against
- 9.2 Jane Morton discussion point:
'P' nights to be held regularly on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month
Mike explained that the aim is for an I-P-I-P pattern, but Teams and comps will interrupt the pattern; 19 out of 22 of this year's P nights will fall on 2nd 4th Wednesdays. The decision has been left for the committee. A show of hands confirmed that members were happy for the May events to be changed on the draft calendar.

Appendix One: Summary of Chairman's Report AGM Feb 2018

- Major change in the past year has been the introduction of Daytime Bridge, at Hallow on Tuesdays, with its distant cousin Cafe Bridge, as Joyce anticipated in her 2017 Report
- This has led to an overall increase in the amount of WBC Bridge being played per week, in line with the Constitution's stated objectives: detailed numbers and cost implications to follow, via Treasurer's Report
- The increase to two sessions per week, and expansion to two venues, has also inevitably led to more work for committee and helpers; accordingly, we have sought to expand the Committee up to its maximum of 10, with a spread of representation across the two sections
- Indeed, we had the luxury of too many candidates for the committee for this AGM; Tim Keates has offered to continue to do much of the valued work that he has done on committee (viz trophies, Safeguarding, help with running try-Duplicate and junior sessions) whilst standing down from the committee. Many thanks are due to him for what he has done on committee and indeed for offering to continue to help in these areas.
- This makes Tim one of an increasingly vital group of non-Committee helpers without whom the Club(s) could not function, viz:
 - Sue Evans, who does loads to make Tuesdays happen, and to make these events such a welcoming environment;
 - Terry, who likewise has been vital to the success of Tuesdays, bearing the brunt of the Directing, and as Front-of-House on Wednesdays;
 - All our team of directors, Paul Hammond, Jimmy Ledger, Sue Lane, Paul Tapster, Andy O'Hare, Dick Rutter and Helen Cameron; in particular Paul Hammond for all the work he does on the technical side
 - The team of scorers, now including John Dowbiggin, who has now learned the ropes in order to help with Tuesday scoring
 - Other general helpers who set up and put away on Tuesdays, especially Steve Bull and Janette Torrance

- Thanks to all who have helped make the Host system work, either by attending and plating, or by going home; and especially those who have stepped into gaps at short notice when there have been illnesses
- And Dave the Steward of course!...
- Finally, my personal thanks to the Committee, all standing for another year at least:
 - Dick for all the work of treasurer as well as membership secretary and general wise advice
 - Mark for his work as Secretary, and advice as above
 - Andy Cullen, Maureen Ledger and Richard Arrowsmith, who quietly go about tasks such as stationery, biscuits, pairing up teams and much more; and our co-opted 8th man George Jeffrey, who does Front-of-House on Tuesdays
- Successes:
 - Worcester won the Healey Cup in November
 - And a Worcester pair (Dick and Jane) recently won the Club Representative Pairs
 - This year we have had three teams in the NICKO, all of whom won at least one round: the newest of these (**Herbert**) very nearly upset one of the top seeds in the 2nd round; The **Ledger** team is still in, at Rd 3 stage, and we wish them all the best
 - Many of our members have had illustrious successes in congresses and events outside of Worcester and abroad, too numerous to mention; also there have been some major promotions to the highest ranks of Master-status.
- Challenges:
 - We have made some excellent progress, not just in terms of numbers and events, but the atmosphere in both sections has been very good; and I cannot recall a single instance of dispute at the table this year. Do call the Director – that's what they are here for; but do continue to say please and to accept the outcome with your customary good grace...
 - ... as our major challenge is to make WBC a welcoming place for newcomers and younger players into the future, and to ensure that we are still a strong club well into the future
 - With two other Chairmen (Eddy at DBC and David at Bewdley) we have started a Club Chairmen's meeting group, looking to share ideas on the future of the game; one initiative we are exploring, developing an idea from Terry, is to set up evening classes for beginners based around the HOW Colleges, and hoping to feed into the local clubs
 - Another approach could be from you the members: How about a late New Year's Resolution to yourselves to bring along a less experienced player or a lapsed former member to play with you, once or twice a year?
- Events for 2018:
 - **Café Bridge** is here, to stay, I hope: next event is on Tuesday 17th April, details very soon; and hopefully we will have another Multi-Café event in September
 - **Andrew Robson** will be back for another seminar on Friday 19th October: get it in your diaries, and make sure you buy your tickets quickly when they become available!

Appendix Two: Treasurer's Report 2018 AGM

There is a surplus for 2017 of £328 which is much reduced from 2016, due principally to:

- No £778 seminar surplus
- Prior to daytime bridge, membership was down £110
- Reduced Wednesday evening table money (down £878)
- Computer purchase £300 (though probably not an unusual amount to spend on equipment)
- Training course for 1TD of £144, though we should expect this level in the future
- Start of provision of refreshments of £112

There were two major initiatives in the year: Tuesday daytime bridge made an initial loss partially due to two introductory sessions, whilst surplus on Café Bridge was given to charity.

In order to start contributing to WBC overhead costs, we need 7.5 tables on Wednesday evening and 7 tables on Tuesday day sessions. To breakeven, we need about a table more than this. In 2017, we averaged 10.5 tables, and this has been slightly lower at the start of 2018 at 9.6 tables; whilst Tuesday tables in 2017 was 5.5 tables but has increased so far in 2018 to 7 tables.

There is £13,919 in the bank accounts at year end

Table money and refreshments

It is proposed that table money should be increased by 50p (so £3 for members playing, £4 for visitors but still £1 for juniors), but to include for tea, coffee and biscuits at both Wednesday evening as well as the Tuesday day sessions; membership subscriptions should continue at the current rates. Any drinks at the bar remain at the expense of the player.