



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club held via Zoom at 7.30 pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

**Present (via Zoom):** David Ewart (Chairman); Paula Leslie (Treasurer), Brian Callaghan, John Dean, India Leeming, David Muller, Rosie White (MC members); Ollie Burgess (Club Manager), Chris Duckworth (Minutes); Tim Borton, Martyn Caswell, Gad Chadha, Andrew Clery, Mark Davies, Carrie Eden, Mike Eden, Jackie Fairclough, Clive Freedman, Chantal Girardin, Ingar Hansen, Jonathan Lillycrop, Lorinda Muller, Andrew McIntosh, Ann McKellow, Stuart Nelson, Margaret Nygren, Graham Orsmond, Francois Picard, Kath Stynes, Tony Verran

### **1. Registration of Proxies**

The following members were present by proxy: Kirsty Anthony, Malcolm Bridgeford, Anne Burgess, Rhonda Collins, David Collison, Jerry Cope, Croz Crosswell, John Dearing, Joe Fawcett, David Glass, Richard Hillman, Jonathan Jacobs, Kostas Koussis, Paul Lamford, David Newman, Paul Nicholas, Fionn O'Leary, Claire Robinson, Dominique Ryder, David Schiff, Mike Scoltock, Mike Smyth, Peter Taylor

### **2. Apologies for absence**

No apologies for absence were received apart from those who had arranged to be represented by proxy.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM of 17th October 2019**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and there were no matters arising.

### **4. Election of Directors**

Two of the club's directors were standing down in rotation, namely David Ewart and John Dean. They were both standing for re-election and had been formally nominated. Both were duly elected nem con.

### **5. Amendments to the Articles of Association**

The Chairman proposed, and Chris Duckworth seconded, two amendments to the Articles of Association of YCBC Ltd as follows:

- a) That Article 14 (2) be replaced by: "The number of directors shall be six".
- b) That Article 10 (2) be replaced by "A quorum is 20 members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting.an amendment to

Both amendments were voted on and agreed unanimously.

### **6. Chairman's report**

The Chairman started by remarking how very different was the current situation of the club compared with the previous year. There had been many changes during the year, highlights of which had been:

- Rachel Lillycrop joining the club as Manager in February and successfully helping to get the club up and running online before her departure to take up religious studies;

- Ollie Burgess joining as club manager in September. Ollie is known to many as a great player, but he is also a great bridge teacher. He has taken on the job at a very difficult time and is tackling it with great energy and enthusiasm;
- The Goldhawks initiative had been started for social players, which was just taking off before Covid struck;
- Some teaching courses had been run;
- The Youth Initiative had been launched;
- The Hammersmith Chess Club had started running chess evenings at the club;
- Paula Leslie had organised a very successful Womens' Teams event in November;
- The YC Super League had been launched, and was currently the only London Super League still continuing.

The Chairman singled out some club members who had significantly contributed to the success of the club during the year:

- Rosie White, who had spent an enormous amount of effort looking after the club administration, finances and day-to-day running;
- Mike Eden, who had kept the supervised play going and thriving, now online. He and Carrie had also funded the installation of a new stair carpet for the club;
- Chris Duckworth, who had returned to club administration as secretary to the MC;
- Brian Callaghan who maintains the website and who had overseen the switch to Bridgewebs.

The Chairman went on to make an important announcement for the future. A group of sympathetic investors, including bridge players and the Go Association, had raised the funds and made an offer to purchase a former Salvation Army Hall in Dalling Road in Hammersmith. The investors had formed a company to handle the purchase and intended to lease part of the building as a MindSports Centre to be used by the YCBC, Go, chess and others. The offer had been accepted, subject to final confirmation from the Salvation Army trustees, and it was expected that the premises would be ready to be used in 2021 when face-to-face play becomes possible once again. David Parry had led the fund-raising and negotiations relating to the offer, and he was to be highly commended for his efforts and success in all of this. A picture of the building and outline floor plans were shown to those present.

At the same time, the owners of the Goldhawk Road premises had expressed a wish to re-occupy the building, and negotiations were in progress to surrender the lease there in January 2021. The agreement would release the club from an obligation to pay outstanding rent for the current year, so was financially advantageous.

In response to questions, it was noted that there may be a need to store the YC's furniture and equipment for a short period after relinquishing Goldhawk Road and before opening up in the new venue, but it may even be possible to use the hall for storage during the fit-out period. There would be no change to the club's charity status.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented figures for the 2019/20 financial year and the current year to date. Whereas in 2018/19 the club had more or less broken even, in 19/20 it had made a profit of approx £25,000. This was largely due to a £50,000 donation from a member, made to cover a large electricity bill, which was subsequently negotiated down. In the current year, we have paid no rates and have received a government grant of £25,000. The staff have been furloughed and, assuming negotiations are successfully completed so that we pay no rent, the club will have made a net profit of approx £22,500 for the first 6 months, though this will reduce in the second half of the year. The current year's figures included some donations, for which thanks were given. The Treasurer also reminded members that Gift Aid on subscriptions and donations can significantly increase the club's income, and all club members were encouraged to sign forms if they had not already done so.

In response to questions, it was noted that these figures took no account of the outstanding debentures. It was asked if the club might be able to negotiate with the EBU on the amount of UM

paid, and whilst it was thought this might be a possibility if we were desperate, the YCBC recognised that the EBU had its own financial problems and the club would prefer to offer it every support.

## **8. Adoption of Accounts for 2018/19 and 2019/20**

The Chairman proposed adoption of the accounts for these two years, seconded by Graham Orsmond. On a vote, the accounts were adopted nem con.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- a) Mike Eden asked if the club had considered switching to Realbridge. He was using it for teaching and was very impressed by the system. The Chairman replied that it was under consideration and a trial was being held the following week, but there were some reservations as to whether it was yet sufficiently robust. It might well be suitable for Friday evenings, however.
- b) Carrie Eden noted that she had taken on moderation of the club's facebook page. She aimed to keep the focus on the page on club activities, and encouraged all members to access and use the page.
- c) Francois Picard thanked Jonathan Lillycrop for running the Super League, which he believed would show a good profit as an online event. There was discussion of the prize fund for this, and it was suggested that a trophy might be an acceptable alternative to a monetary prize. It was also suggested that there should be an Honours Board for the competition.
- d) Andrew Clery proposed a vote of thanks to the MC members and the club manager for all they are doing to keep the club going and to develop it in these difficult times.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.