

WEST OF ENGLAND BRIDGE CLUB
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 6th May 2015 at 6.30

- Committee:** Gareth Evans (Chairman) Bernice Horseman (Vice Chairman)
Chris Frew (Treasurer) David Jones (Tournament Secretary)
Jen Challoner , Jan Duncan
- Members:** George Whyte, Jane Drew, Dorothy Hoyle, Laurie Barth, Steve Tomlinson, Pat Clowes
- Apologies:** Alan Evans, Bridget Johnson, Gordon Allen, Alan Williams

1. Minutes of the last Meeting – 14 May 2014

These were accepted as correct by all those present.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report (Gareth Evans)

As many of you will know, I returned to the Committee as Chairman in November 2014 after almost a year's absence. Firstly may I thank Alan Williams for his efforts as Chairman and Bernice for keeping things going when Alan stepped down due to family commitments.

As part of the discussions regarding my return, I expressed concern at the size the Committee had grown to over the years, where we had 12 committee members, almost 10% of the membership. At my suggestion we pared this down to 7 and I would like to thank those who stood aside at that stage, Laurie, Steve, Lillian and Ian. Previous to this Robert Glass had resigned from the Committee and I'd particularly like to thank Robert for the work he had put in to the Club over many years.

The highlight of the last year was undoubtedly the 30th Anniversary event and the associated newspaper. I know this was a great team effort involving those on the committee and others but I'd like to make special mention of Jen and Laurie who put so much effort into the production of the newspaper.

The Committee continues to think about the suitability of our premises but has yet to find anything better. We are talking to the management of Golden Hill Sports Club who have long term ambitions to significantly improve this building and hope that we will be able to negotiate a long term solution in that plan.

This past year has seen the passing of two long term members, Sylvia Bowen and Colin Cheek and they will both be remembered fondly.

The Committee has recently decided to introduce a new Annual Competition, the Monday Champions League. This will be an un-handicapped competition using the best 24 results between 1st December and 30th November and the first presentation of this will be at the Christmas Party.

I would like to thank all my Committee for their hard work and dedication. Finally I would like to thank our barmaid, Caroline, who will be leaving us at the end of May.

Next I would like to address the Constitutional Amendment proposed by Chris Frew and seconded by Bernice Horseman.

Chris proposes that the Constitution's wording be amended from "the management committee shall consist of not less than 7 and not more than 12 members including the Officers" to "the management committee shall consist of 7 members including the Officers".

4. Treasurer's Report (Chris Frew)

Chris submitted the following report. In summary the headline financial news is that we made a profit last year of £1,311 from a total income of £20,295; and this is after taking a £670 depreciation on our 16 BridgeMate IIs, the second tranche of a three-year write-down.

Looking through our Income in the Profit and Loss Account:

1. Table Money at £17,093 is 7% up on last year because playing numbers were 5% up on the previous year. Table Money per session has been unchanged since October 2011.
2. Match Fees at £536 are 20% down on last year.
3. Subscription income for 2014-15 fell by 4% this year to £1818. Bernice, Membership Secretary, will comment further. Membership subscription rates were unchanged for a further year.
4. Steve Tomlinson's bridge lessons have brought in £180 this year, well down on last year due to pressure of Steve's work commitments. The income shown is pure profit to us as he does not charge us for his time.
5. 'Other Income' of £668 is well ahead of last year. This income arises principally from 'fun' events. The Christmas Party enjoyed £369 of income, and the one-off 30th anniversary Party sold £235 (last year) of the 'WOE Begotten' souvenir magazine.
6. Bank interest has declined further to £155 in spite of having more on deposit this year. Bank of Scotland have further reduced their deposit rate from ¾% to ½%.

Looking at our expenses (Overheads) in the Profit and Loss Account:

7. Our largest single expense is the rent we pay, which accounted for 38% of our Total Expenditure this year, the same as last year. The rent we pay is increased by RPI each year. We are refunded proportionately for any sessions that Golden Hill Sports pre-empt.
8. This is our second year without a Club Manager. We have recently reduced some rates that we pay for tasks and are encouraging more voluntary contributions. As a result our combined management costs of £5,103 are 6% lower than last year.
9. The third largest line item is the Pay-to-Play charge. At £1,863 this is 10% higher than last year. For information, this year we paid 35p to the EBU and 7p to ACBA for every player session.
10. The 'Food for Events' spending has ballooned to £916 partly because we had an extra event during the year – the 30th Anniversary celebration. We do a reconciliation after each special event to compare all income with all expenditure and, broadly, all broke even apart from Bastille Night, where attendees consumed heroic amounts of cheese.

Looking at our Balance Sheet

11. The Balance Sheet shows that our Assets comprise almost entirely of cash and bank balances, which amounted to £32,213 at the end of the year. This is an increase of £1,868 over the year.
12. The Balance Sheet 'Current Liabilities' of £1,204 is almost entirely made up of Annual Subscriptions for 2015-16 paid early; and already on deposit, for what that's worth.

Chris gave thanks to Irene Robinson for examining the accounts.

5. Vice Chairman/Membership Secretary (Bernice Horseman)

Bernice reported that we currently have 89 paid up ordinary members, 2 county members and 7 active life members. There are also 24 non-active life members.

6. Tournament Secretary's Report (David Jones)

It has been a year of modest progress in terms of attendances .Table numbers are up by a around 5% overall with a steady 12 or 13 tables on a Monday our best evening but more support is needed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

A new session on a Thursday afternoon began in March run by Jen Challoner and Laurie Barth which is aimed at newcomers to duplicate and the inexperienced.

The club tournament programme is varied with a range of pairs and teams events both with and without handicapping and we have added a number of fun events .

Fun events held in the past year include Burns Night in January which was a great success as well as the ever popular Christmas party .We plan to hold Bastille and Zodiac events later in the year and extend out thanks to Jen Challoner for her superb and tireless organisation of these events

Each of our regular nights include leagues with winners determined over a 12 week cycle and we propose to extend the Monday Champions League to run over the whole year with a winner over that period subject to playing in an appropriate number of sessions.

We held a 30th Anniversary event in September 2014 which was organised by Jen Challoner and was a wonderful evening of bridge, supper and a fair portion of nostalgia and a quite wonderful newspaper produced by Jen with some super contributions.

I shall conclude by mentioning some recent successes by members. In the club competitions this year the following winners :-

Club Pairs : Mike Letts and Andrew Urbanski

Club Teams (Preddy) Arnold Taylor, Lesley Reed ,Chris Frew & Jen Challoner

Club Handicapped Teams (Moorstone) : Alan Evans, Bridget Johnson, Patrick Roe & Graham Rogers

Club Mixed Pairs : Jan Duncan and David Jones

Club Swiss Pairs : Andrew Urbanski and Suzy Lawson

Club Handicapped Pairs (Lewis Morton)

Cross Imped Pairs (Barham Hall): Bernard Mitchell and Richard Farrer

Club Individual : Damian Nicholls

In Avon county events the following West of England members achieved successes

County League 3 Montgomery (Mardon,Roe & Rogers) were winners and Whyte (Duncan,Mitchell & Farrer) were runners up .

County League 2 the Page team won by a large margin (Oakley,Mike & Cathy Davies) .

County League 1 was won by the Smith team including Steve Tomlinson & Cathy Smith.

The County Knock Out was won by the team including Mike Elliott & David Jones .

The Knock Out Plate was won by Jeremy Rickard's team of Roberts Glass and Covill, Alan Williams ,Mike Letts and Andrew Urbanski.

The County Pairs was won by Mike Letts and Andrew Urbanski

Cathy Davies won the **Ladies Pairs**.

County Championship Teams by the team including Steve Tomlinson and Cathy Smith and David Griffiths won the accompanying Handicap event .

In national events I will mention just a few significant recent successes among very many for club members over the past year .

In the final of the National Pairs Mike Elliott came 6th and David Jones 4th with their respective partners having finished 1st and 2nd in the south west regional final .In the recent Northern Easter Congress Suzy Lawson came 2nd in the Swiss Pairs and 3rd in the Mixed pairs .

The Avon team reached the final of the Tollemache this year and included the following club members in the team Robert Glass,Jeremy Rickard,Mike Elliott ,Andrew Urbanski, Mike Letts & David Jones

7. Fun Events Officer's Report (Jen Challoner)

The Fun Events was resurrected nearly two years ago with Bastille night, followed by the Zodiac pairs and most recently Burns' Night which have been very successful. Thank you all for participating and entering into the spirit and outfits of these events!

I would also like to thank the member of my sub committee, Jan Duncan, Pat Clowes, Chris Frew, Bernard Mitchell and Laurie Barth, who have contributed to the smooth running of these events.

The Christmas Party was another success and many thanks go to Marc Lee for his role as Quiz Master. Thanks also to David Jones who gamely directed a chaotic crowd of players blowing trumpets when decisions needed to be made, Bernice who provided the raffle prizes, Jan Duncan who sold the tickets and Bernard who provided the music.

The anniversary Party was exceptionally successful, beyond our wildest dreams. We had anticipated 8 tables but the event was a sell out. Bernice trawled through her photo albums and provided many youthful and amusing photos of some of the members doing extraordinary things and Jan Duncan helped with the display. Bernard wrote the Club Anthem which everyone gamely sang, Lilian Skinner made an exceptionally good, spontaneous speech singing the praises of the club and as usual Ian's food was delicious. Thank you to all the members who contributed articles to the Club paper and special thanks to Chris Frew and Laurie who aided and abetted me. We were very pleased with the finished result which we believe captured the history and embodies the spirit of the club. All 100 copies were sold and we are now selling our second print.

And finally, for the last ten Thursday afternoon Laurie and I, with help from Alan Evans and Bernard have run a supervised Bridge Session for people taking Bridge lessons who need practice in bidding, play and bridge etiquette before joining a club, hopefully ours! So far we have a core of 12 and numbers range each week from 8 to 12 depending on their commitments. Play is slow. Four boards an hour with a tea break. We would welcome anyone who is keen to help us perhaps for one session. And if you know of anyone who would benefit from these sessions, would you please let them know. The cost is £3 and chocolate treats are provided for bidding and making slams.

8. Golden Hill Liaison Officer's Report (Alan Evans)

We are in frequent e-mail contact with Golden Hill staff and relations remain good. The one significant item was the change of the afternoon session agreed in our lease from Mondays to Thursdays; these new sessions are now up and running as reported by Jen Challoner. Day-to-day housekeeping liaison covers items such as heating, security, provision of bar staff, supply of milk and arrangements for Christmas. Changes to the bar tariff are currently under discussion. Goodwill is generated by our participation in Golden Hill's annual Party in the Park - thanks to all involved last year.

9. Motions for Discussion

There were no motions submitted.

However the proposed constitutional amendment regarding the size of the committee outlined in the Chairman's report was discussed. It was felt that a reduced committee of 7 would be more practical than 12. A Committee would be elected each year where anyone could put their names forward for election. A vote was then taken on the constitutional amendment which was passed by 10 to 3.

10. Election of Officers

Gareth Evans was elected as Chairman

Bernice Horseman- Vice chairman

Chris Frew - Treasurer

David Jones - Tournament Secretary

Alan Evans, Jen Challoner and Jan Duncan as Committee Members

11. Any Other Business

Questions were raised about the running of Pianola, in particular, the calculations used for setting up the handicap results. Gareth agreed to look at this.

The meeting concluded at 7.15.

Signed

Date