

WEST OF ENGLAND BRIDGE CLUB
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday , May 18, 2016

Committee: Gareth Evans (Chairman) Bernice Horseman (Vice Chairman) Chris Frew (Treasurer)
David Jones (Tournament Secretary) Jen Challoner, Alan Evans, Jan Duncan

Members: Tom Nolan, Carol Nolan, Bill Ashford, Lindsay Taylor, Jane Drew, Don Shears, Jackie Cole, Dorothy Hoyle, Pat Clowes, Bridget Johnson, Alan Williams, Phil Seymour, Arnold Taylor, Mike Short, Margaret Mundy, Ian Mundy, Lesley Reed, Nelson Stephens

Apologies: Laurie Barth

1. Minutes of the last Meeting – May 6 2015

A proposal to accept them as correct was made by Mike Short and seconded by Chris Frew. This was accepted by all those present.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report (Gareth Evans)

I am pleased to report the WoEBC has had another successful year, with progress made in a number of areas, but with more still to be achieved.

As you may be aware, over recent years we have had a number of meetings with Golden Hill regarding the possible redevelopment of this building. These discussions have included plans for a new function/bridge room on the ground floor with its own bar. Regrettably, I have heard in the last couple of days that Golden Hill have decided that such plans are too ambitious and are now planning a tarding up of the existing facilities alongside the redevelopment of the balcony. Clearly this is a great disappointment to us and will require some thinking about whether our long term future should remain here.

One of the real highlights of the last year is the supervised play sessions being run on Thursday afternoons. This, led by Jen Challenor, and supported by a small group of willing volunteers has grown to around five tables. The most pleasing aspect from my point of view is that a number of attendees have progressed to playing on Wednesday and Friday evenings, a feat that previous attempts at teaching have failed to achieve, so thanks to Jen and her team for a fantastic job. More recently Jen has, in conjunction with Lorna Watson, started beginners lessons on Tuesday mornings, so now we have a route to bring new blood into the club.

This time last year, we had recently started using Pianola for managing our website, uploading results and operating our various leagues. Whilst most of this is working well, I did raise concerns last May with Pianola about how their league software deals with handicapping. Whilst they did agree with us that the system was flawed and needed changing, this was interrupted when they secured a massive contract with the ACBL. I'm pleased to confirm that this afternoon I received confirmation from Pianola that the changes to handicapping are now under development and should be available within weeks.

For those of you who have not heard, Chris Cook passed away last Friday afternoon. His funeral will be held at 1:15 on Monday 6th June at the Waterside Chapel, Westerleigh Crematorium.

From a personal perspective, I have been Chairman of this Club for the majority of the last 10 years and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this role. It is now, however, time for me to step aside and let someone else have a go, while I move on to a new project. As many of you will know, in recent years I have been helping out with Excel Bridge Clubs when Ralph & Lesley Smith go on holiday. They have recently decided to retire and I will be taking over those Clubs in a few weeks time so will be otherwise engaged on Monday and Wednesday evenings. I will, however, be able to continue to run our Friday sessions here.

I am pleased that Alan Williams is standing for Chairman and strongly commend him to you. In a break with tradition, we have decided that, rather than me stepping aside at the election of officers vote, I will conclude my Chairmanship at the end of this evening, so will continue to manage the remainder of this meeting.

Before concluding, I would like to thank a number of people for their support and effort over the years....

Our Vice Chair, Bernice Horseman, who has more experience on this committee than the rest of us put together.

Our Treasurer, Chris Frew, who has controlled the purse strings admirably whilst also redrafting our constitution and being a constant voice of reason, even when we decided to ignore him.

Alan Evans for his sterling work liaising with GHSC as well as his increasing levels of directing.

Jan Duncan, who is leaving the committee but has carried out the duties of secretary admirably for some years.

Jen Challoner, whose achievements I have already referred to, and whose unbounded energy has been an inspiration, if sometimes an exhausting one.

And finally, our Tournament Secretary, David Jones.

As well as the committee a big thank you to all our members for your continued support. Whilst I am leaving the Committee this evening, I remain a life member of WoEBC and have every intention of being actively involved in the life of the club for many years to come.

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 £2,306 from a total income of £19,684 and this is after taking a £670 depreciation on our 16 BridgeMate IIs, the final tranche of a three-year write-down. As of this year, all our fixed assets are fully depreciated.

Looking through our Income in the Profit and Loss Account:

1. Table Money at £16,683 is 2% down on last year though playing numbers were virtually the same as last year. Table Money per session has been unchanged since October 2011.
2. Match Fees at £176 are substantially down on last year.
3. However, subscription income rose by 18% to £2,153. Bernice, Membership Secretary, will comment further. Membership subscription rates were unchanged for a further year.
4. Though direct teaching income is shown as nil in fact we have instituted formal lessons and supervised play for improvers. Gareth/Jen will comment further.
5. 'Other Income' of £568 arises principally from 'fun' events, most notably the Christmas Party.
6. Bank interest has declined further to £105 in spite of having more on deposit this year. When the Bank of Scotland further reduced their deposit rate from ½ % to 0.05% in

November we moved £30,000 from them to a 120 day notice account at Hampshire Trust Bank paying 1.6%. The interest is paid annually.

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

8. Our largest single expense is the rent we pay, which accounted for 42% of our Total income this year, up from 38% last year. The rent we pay is based on hours used and increases by RPI each year. Although this year's increase was only 1%, we suffered fewer pre-empted sessions – which Golden Hill Sports refund – and booked extra sessions.
9. This is our third year without a Club Manager. We reduced some rates that we pay for tasks last year and encouraged more voluntary contributions. As a result our combined management costs of £3,782 are 26% lower than last year. I don't think it is practical to reduce further, but let me now thank all those who gave their time and energies for little financial reward.
10. The third largest line item is the Pay-to-Play charge. At £1,862 this is virtually the same as last year.

Looking at our Balance Sheet

11. The Balance Sheet shows that our Assets comprise almost entirely of cash and bank balances, which amounted to £35,268 at the end of the year. This is an increase of £3,055 over the year.
12. The Balance Sheet 'Current Liabilities' of £1,282 is almost entirely made up of Annual Subscriptions for 2016-17 paid early.

Chris gave thanks to Irene Robinson for examining the accounts.

5. Tournament Secretary's Report (David Jones)

It has been a year of consolidation and some modest progress. Table numbers are steady although greater support for the club competitions held on Wednesdays would be welcome. Fridays have seen an increase in numbers with the less experienced and some Thursday players participating. The new session on a Thursday afternoon began in March 2015 and run by Jen Challoner and Laurie Barth has proved to be a real success with 4-6 tables on average. It is aimed at newcomers to duplicate and the players are offered "at the table" assistance with their problems from a range of experienced players including Laurie, Jen, Bill Ashford, Alan Evans and your reporter. The club tournament programme remains essentially the same although the committee is always prepared to consider ideas and new types of competition. I shall conclude by mentioning some recent successes by members. In the club competitions this year the following were winners:-

Club Pairs : Irene Robinson & Mike Huggins.

Club Teams (Preddy Cup) Andrew Urbanski , Suzy Lawson Nigel & Lorna Watson .

Club Handcapped Teams (Moorstone Cup) : Gareth Evans , Mike Short, Mary McKenzie and Gerry Gowling.

Club Mixed Pairs : Jan Duncan & David Jones

Club Swiss Pairs : Mike Huggins & Jack Terry .

Jubilee Pairs : Jan Duncan & Robert Covill.

Club Handcapped Pairs (Lewis Morton) Aidan Schofield & Alan Williams.

Club Simple Systems (Barham Hall) : Sheila Montgomery & Ray Mardon.

Club Individual : Kamil Puzykowski

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

County League 3 was won by George Whyte , Jan Duncan, Bernard Mitchell, Richard Farrer , Alan Millichamp and Alun Thomas.

County League 1 was won by the team including Mike Elliott and David Jones.

The Knock Out Plate was won by Jeremy Rickard's team of Robert Glass, Mike Letts and Andrew Urbanski a successful defence of the trophy.

The County Pairs was won by Mike Letts and Andrew Urbanski also a successful defence of the title.

Irene Robinson won the **Ladies Pairs**.

Avon has again won the **A division of the Western League** and a number of club members played for the county in this division and also the B and C teams. Avon finished in second place in the B division. In national events I will mention just some of the more significant successes during the past year for club members.

Three members of the club Robert Covill, Steve Tomlinson and David Jones were in the winning team in the **National Inter Club Knock Out**. From an original entry of almost 500 teams they came through 9 rounds of knockout matches to lift the trophy .

In the **Wilts/Avon event held at Bath University** in March Andrew Urbanski and Suzy Lawson came 2nd in the Swiss Pairs and Sue O'Hara, Nelson Stephens and Peter Shelley won the Swiss Teams on the Sunday .

Jack Terry & Peter Shelley won the **National Master Pairs** held during the first weekend of March this year.

Irene Robinson, Mike Huggins, Jack Terry ,Jeremy Rickard & Peter Shelley reached the final of the **Hubert Phillips Plate** losing a very close final by a miniscule margin.

Aidan Schofield finished in second place in the **Swiss Pairs at the Autumn congress**.

Mike Huggins and Irene Robinson won the **Swiss Pairs at the EBU Seniors Congress**.

Successes recorded in **English Bridge Union Overseas events** include a win for Sue O'Hara & Jan Duncan in the **ladies pairs in Cyprus** and Sue & Nelson Stephens finished 3rd in the Swiss Pairs .In the **autumn overseas event held in Rhodes** Jan Duncan and David Jones won the two day Swiss Teams . David Jones is playing in teams in the 5th round last 16 of both the **English teams (Crockfords) and the British Teams (Gold Cup)**

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

We are in frequent email contact with Golden Hill staff over items of the day-to-day running such as heating, bar tariff, car parking, rubbish and recycling.

One significant item in the past year was the new whiteboard. This is used for teaching on Tuesday's lessons and the Thursday improvers class. This was paid for by attendance at the Thursday sessions. Goodwill is generated by our participation in Golden Hill's Party in the Park, this year on Saturday 17th September.

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

Jen spoke about the success of the Thursday afternoon sessions. They have now been going on for over a year and all the players have made great progress with numbers steadily increasing. Jen gave thanks to David, Alan, Laurie, Robert, Jane, Bernard and Bill for helping and supporting this.

Other fun events throughout the year included the Christmas Party and Burns Night. Both these events proved to be very successful and Jen thanked her team of helpers. Bastille Night is the next event scheduled.

8. Motions for Discussion

Thursday Afternoon Sessions

There was a discussion of the need for a Constitutional change to create a new class of membership to accommodate beginners taking lessons and Improvers at the Thursday afternoon session. A vote

agreed the principle, with the Management Committee tasked with determining specific wording and incorporating into the Constitution.

9. Election of Officers

Alan Williams was elected as Chairman

Bernice Horseman – Vice Chairman

Bill Ashford – Treasurer

David Jones, Alan Evans, Chris Frew and Jen Challoner as Committee Members

10. Any Other Business

Bernice thanked Gareth Evans for the wonderful job he had done for the Club as Chairman and wished him all the best for the future.

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 19.15

Signed

Date.....