

PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

1 Moorview Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth, PL4 7EB

Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting

25th March 2024

Attendees: There were 24 members in attendance. G Seymour, R Walters, R Ayres, M Mel-Brown, A Preston, M Wotton, M Baser, J Clarke, A Ashley, A Carpenter, R Wotton, S Lacey, A Henry, L Rawlings, D McGregor, A Simpson, J Pellow, S Cornish, S Gregory, R Kilby, V Rose, R Best, J Henderson and J Shalliker.

1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies received from Bruce Foster, Margaret Flanagan, Jenny Northmore, Tom Gall, Brian Lupton, Charles Greenless, Karen Murphy, Ruth Edmondson, Brigid McElroy, Jenny Young, Catherine Ledger, Malcolm Jones, Judy Ripley, Christine Longden, Ali Blake and Sue Marples.

2 Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting 27th April 2023

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by Suzanne Cornish, seconded by Ailie Henry.

3 Matters Arising

- 3.1 There were no matters arising from the 2023 AGM.

4 Chair's Report and Announcement of 2023/24 Cup Winners

- 4.1 Steve Lacey (Chair) presented the following report.

In common with many other Bridge Clubs we are still slowly recovering from the effects of the Pandemic.

Numbers playing face to face in the club on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday are gradually increasing - although we still have not reached pre-pandemic levels. There is also our Tuesday evening session on-line with Newton Abbot which continues. It is a tribute to all our members that we support this many weekly sessions when many clubs are playing only once a week.

We have been running bridge classes on Tuesday mornings for beginners and improvers which has resulted in a number of new members joining, playing at the informal Tuesday afternoon game and gradually building the confidence to play at the more formal duplicate sessions. I am convinced that these lessons are crucial to the future of the club. My thanks to Sue Gregory who has been running the Improvers classes. If any one of our experienced players would like to take the EBU Teacher Training Course and join the teaching team of Sue and myself please let me know.

Similarly, if anyone would like to be trained as a director or scorer please let me know, likewise if you would like to join the team who deals the cards.

Last year we also ran a Sunday game with refreshments which was enjoyed by everyone who came. Thank you to Jenny Northmore who organised this. We are planning to make this a regular event and the next one is on Sunday 14th April.

Again, I thank all of you who contribute to the running of the club - you will see from last year's minutes who those people are, and I am grateful for the team continuing to support the club as you do.

Thank you to Karen Murphy who has prepared our annual accounts and submitted our annual return to HMRC.

Last year I warned about the increase in costs that we would face as a club and you will see that we are proposing small increases in subscriptions and table money to enable us to ensure we have enough money in the bank to meet our building and maintenance responsibilities. Allan will be explaining the rationale and I hope you will be supporting the committee's proposals.

We are also proposing to apply for Charitable Status which will have definite advantages going forward. I am grateful for the work Allan has done on both these issues and I will leave him to present the proposal.

On a sadder note I would like to mark the passing of Myrna Webb and Norah Culliford. Norah passed away at the age of 97 and was a life member in recognition for her contribution to the club. May they both rest in peace.

Competition Winners 2023/24

Beryl Edmonds Cup	Bruce Foster & Charles Greenlees
Individual Trophy	Robert Kilby

5 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Allan Simpson (Treasurer) provided the following report.

You will see when comparing 2022 and 2023 accounts last year resulted in a deficit. Having returned to F2F bridge for most of the year Refreshments and Catering Help

costs increased as well as the cost for Repairs and Maintenance. The latter is mostly because in 2022 we only had servicing carried out whereas in 2023 we had some upgrades done and the outside of the club house cleaned. Claire needs a reasonable wage and we review her pay every April.

Whilst the club returned to F2F we have retained one weekly online session on BBO in conjunction with Newton Abbott Bridge Club (NABC). The arrangement with NABC is working well and provides an additional revenue stream so thanks must go to all club members that help to facilitate these sessions.

The 2022 accounts presented at last year's AGM indicated a Corporation tax liability of £733. Karen Murphy who prepares the accounts has reduced that to zero by deducting a share of premises costs from room hire income and submitted our annual Company Tax Return with a nil liability. Therefore, you will see on this year's accounts £733 written back into club funds, so thank you Karen.

Immediately following last year's AGM, the Committee considered that club reserves should at least be earning some interest and at the June committee meeting it was agreed to invest £40k in a 95 day account and £10k in a 35 day account with Nat West bank. You can see from the accounts the interest earned so far in doing this. Taking this action lessened last year's operating deficit.

In the last quarter of 2023 3-year contracts for gas and electricity came to an end and whilst the electricity tariff increased during those 3 years the gas tariff was fixed. As expected, given the energy crisis since 2021 new tariffs are significantly higher. Projected increases in energy costs prompted the committee to review room hire rates and new rates came into effect from January this year. With significantly higher energy costs as well as other costs increasing it should be no surprise to see there is an item on the agenda to increase membership subscriptions and table money. Energy costs will be kept under constant review and further measures may be necessary to lessen the impact of these increased costs on club finances.

Club membership has been in gradual decline for several years but on the positive side we are attracting new members through the teaching programme. If we can maintain membership at the current level and continue to run all existing sessions at the same or better levels as the latter half of 2023 we should be looking towards a reasonably successful 2024.

Whilst not directly associated with the annual accounts I can't pass up an opportunity to mention the club's 'cashless' arrangements. Overall, this works well with most members now paying money into the correct account with the correct reference. However, there are some who continue to pay into the incorrect account and/or with an incorrect reference. If members get confused by having 2 PBC payees in their online banking just keep the savings account ending in 0452 as the only reason to use the clubs current account is to pay membership subscriptions and this can be collected

through the 'cashless' system. The increase in table money and membership money were carried.

6 Motions for Discussion

6.1 To register the club as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The meeting agreed that the club would apply for CIO Status and report back to a full meeting to approve a new constitution in due course.

6.2 Membership Subscription and table Money increase

It was agreed to raise the annual subscription from £12 to £15 with effect from April 1st and to increase table money by 50p a session.

7 Election of Officers

7.1 The following nominations were tabled:

- a) Chair - Steve Lacey
- b) Vice Chair - Mel Melville-Brown
- c) Treasurer - Allan Simpson
- d) Secretary - Vacant

7.2 The positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer as above were unanimously agreed.

8 Election of Committee

8.1 Nominations were received from the following:

Charles Greenlees

Diane McGregor

Gill Seymour

Bruce Foster

Sue Gregory

Suzanne Cornish

Rachael Walters

8.2 There being no need for a ballot the above nominations were unanimously agreed.



9 Any Other Business

9.1 The Honours Boards had been updated.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

	
Susan Gregory Position - Secretary	Steve Lacey Position - Chair