PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 1 MOOR VIEW TERRACE, PLYMOUTH PL4 7EB

ON 16th JUNE 2025

There was a quorum of 20 members present.

1. Apologies were received from 8 members.

2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 25th March 2024 were approved.

3. The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting on 22nd July 2024 were approved.

4. Chairman's report

This is our last annual general meeting of the club under its old constitution.

We now have the status of a charitable organisation and move forward with our 10 trustees as approved at a special general meeting last year. I thank the committee now the trustees for their hard work and good advice during the year.

My special thanks go to Allan and Andy who worked so hard to achieve charitable status. It has been a long onerous process requiring great eye for detail which fortunately both Allan and Andy possess in spades.

I am also grateful for Ailie's help who provided advice on the way.

Now we have charitable status we can keep our eyes open for possible alternative premises. There is no urgent need for us to move but if the opportunity arises we are in a position to take it.

Turning to the playing, we are maintaining our regular bridge sessions on Monday and Thursday afternoons and Friday evenings. The number of tables are gradually increasing, although we have yet to return to pre-covid numbers. We have continued to run a Tuesday evening on-line game in co-operation with Newton Abbot Bridge Club. We also have the Tuesday afternoon group thanks to the rota of members who supervise the playing. This is a more relaxed social game than the duplicate sessions ideal for learners and less experienced players. Sue Gregory has been offering improvers classes on a Tuesday morning and that group continues currently with a focus on card play. Some players stay on after this session to play in the afternoon.

This year a major initiative has been offering beginners lessons on a Monday evening led by Jeremy Henderson. This attracted a group of 12 or so learners who began in October and are still meeting every Monday evening. We started a new learners' group at the end of April which has eight students.

Both these sessions have attracted younger people who are in education or work – the implication being we should think about offering more evening and weekend sessions at the club.

I must give my usual thanks to the numerous people who contribute to the running of the club. The dealers who give up part of their weekends to feed the duplimator, our directors and scorers who ensure our games are run smoothly and those who organise and run our social events including the occasional weekend game and of course the Christmas parties.

I also thank Karen Murphy who has Independently examined and prepared the 2024 accounts from the books and records provided by Allan, who will talk about these in his report.

I take the opportunity to mark the passing of Margaret Southwell who was a loved member of our club and a lifelong bridge player. May she rest in peace. This is also been a sad year for members of the club who have lost their life partners in recent times and I offer my condolences.

So as a club we live through changing times and know that we must continue to move forward to build a stronger successful Bridge Club.

I congratulate the competition winners in 2024/25

Mayflower cup	Jeremy Henderson and David Atkins
Mayflower 400 cup	Mike Sperinck and Jean Collings
Beryl Edmonds cup	Ruth Edmondson and Brigid McElroy
Individual Trophy	Robert Kilby

Richard asked whether the purchase of alternative premises would be considered at a formal club meeting. Steve said it would go to a General Meeting of the club. (Secretary's note: The decision would be made by a simple majority of members present at the meeting).
Anne asked why we would need to consider alternative premises. Steve advised that the building is vulnerable with expense (eg the roof) coming down the line. Parking is difficult and the premises are in an edgy area particularly at night.

6. Treasurer's report for 2024 Financial Year

As mentioned by the chair the club was registered as a charity in October last year and therefore the accounts presented cover the period 1st January 2024 to 21st October 2024 as the final accounts for PBC and have been prepared by Karen Murphy from the books and records I maintain. So, thanks to Karen Murphy.

As the accounts shown in the hand-out do not cover equal periods it's difficult to see exactly how the club performed in 2024 compared to 2023. However, taking 2024 as a whole the club performed satisfactorily and I'd just like to outline a few areas.

Income

Table money from F2F sessions increased due to the table money increase agreed at last year's AGM and playing F2F for afternoon sessions for the whole year.

Even though U3a reduced the number of occasions they hire club premises room hire income in 2024 matched that of 2023 due to room rate increases and a small increase in use by the Plymouth Chess Club.

The weekly online session on BBO in conjunction with Newton Abbott Bridge Club (NABC) continues to be a successful arrangement with consistent numbers. So, thanks to all club members that help to facilitate these sessions.

You can also see that the interest from club reserves provides a reasonable return, even though rates seem to continually decrease, so taking the action we did last year was certainly worthwhile.

Expenditure

Premises costs have increased due to the new energy tariffs mentioned at last year's AGM being applied to the whole of 2024.

Other expenditure was not far from what was expected.

Before I finish there's just a couple of things I'd like to mention.

It's now been 4 years since we went 'cashless' which works well but what I would like to ask is for members to keep an eye on their accounts and make sure there's enough credit before playing in a session or attending lessons. Table money is collected using session results and transferred monthly from the savings account to the club's current account so if you haven't a credit balance in your account when you play when bank transfers are made others are paying for your session or lesson.

Finally, as a charity we can claim gift aid on subscriptions so after the 30th June when the grace period for membership renewals ends we will be asking all members if they pay UK tax and if so would they sign a declaration which enables us to claim gift aid.

If anyone has any observations or comments on the accounts, I will do my best to answer them.

7. Reappointment of Trustees

The Secretary advised that the transfer of the property to Plymouth Bridge Club CIO has not yet been completed.

Firstly, a former Trustee had to be retired formally and that has been completed.

The form for the Land Registry has been drafted and we have suggested some amendments and await a response from our solicitors.

Therefore we need to reappoint Ailie Henry and Andy Carpenter as Trustees until the transfer of the property to Plymouth Bridge Club CIO has been completed.
This was approved by the meeting.

8. Any other business

None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.25pm.