

PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

1 Moor View Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth, PL4 7EB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25 March 2019

Attendance: Steve Lacey (Chair), Pete Tunnicliffe (Vice Chair), Charles Greenlees (Treasurer), Ailie Henry (Acting Secretary).

Committee Members: Richard Ayres, Digby Hole, Jill Seymour, Allan Simpson, Margaret Wotton.

Trustees: Andy Carpenter, Ailie Henry, Jenny Young and 32 members.

Apologies: Diane McGregor (Secretary), Arthur Norman, Margaret Southwell, Sue Murkin, Bruce Foster, Myrna Webb, Jenny Northmore, Eileen Clout.

Minutes of AGM held on 26 March 2018: the Minutes were approved as a true record.

Chair's Report: It has again been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Club during the last year and I am grateful for the support I have received. I can honestly say, that what has in the past been a stressful and difficult job, has been a pleasure this year.

So, firstly, I need to say thank you to you all. I do think that at present the Club is really welcoming and friendly which is down to all of you.

Again I must thank all of you who contribute to the successful running of the club. It can only succeed if it is a team effort and I hope you all know that I appreciate what you do. You only have to read the Minutes of last year to see the large number of you who continue to contribute – dealing cards, organising sessions, directing, scoring, hosting, drawing up rotas, organising Christmas parties and many other things. Last year I mentioned John and Karen Alder who run the flourishing Tuesday afternoon sessions and John has also been quietly renovating some of our card tables for which I am grateful.

Encouraging new members and providing bridge lessons has been a function of the Club for many years and I thank Bridget and Ruth who teach at the Club on a Thursday evening. On Monday mornings, our team of Charles, Judy, Martin, Richard and myself teach beginners and improvers. We are generally getting between 15 – 20 people and it had been good to see our students playing on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons. A new class for beginners will start in September.

Thank you to our paid staff as well. Clare has taken on the serving of tea and coffee for our afternoon sessions as well as the evenings and she also cleans the building every week.

Finally, thank you to the members of the Committee who have all played important roles in leading the club this year. The maintenance and upgrading of the building has continued and during this year the roof has been repaired, the card rooms, hall, stairs and landing redecorated and the lighting upgraded in the downstairs card room. Thank you to Charles and Ailie who have shouldered much

of the burden of project managing this work. Ongoing maintenance will still be a challenge for the new Committee and although we hope the major expense has already been incurred, you never know what might crop up with an old building. One idea being considered is to convert the attic which used to be a flat, and rent it to a suitable tenant. This could provide a possible new income stream for the Club. We would be interested in members views.

Thank you for our retiring committee members – Diane McGregor, Margaret Wotton, Sue Murkin and Digby Hole. Thanks particularly to our Secretary, Diane, who has decided to step down after doing the job so efficiently over a number of years. Sue has agreed to continue to keep an eye on our First Aid equipment. Thank you to the other Committee members who I am delighted to see are willing to serve again. Thank you to Charles our Treasurer, Pete our Vice Chair who has done a great job in managing our website and chairing the Competitions Committee, Allan Simpson, our membership Secretary who does our work on data protection and our interface with Pianola and Jill Seymour who looks after our room lettings. I shall look forward to working with the new Committee and I am delighted to see new people putting their names forward. You will notice that we do not have a nomination for Secretary at present, so we will be looking for someone willing to take on that important role.

Thank you to Pete and our Competitions Sub Committee of Richard and Andy, who have worked at developing this key aspect of our Club. Last year you will remember the weekend play days and our participation in Simultaneous Pairs. In January the Club entered one team in the Garden Cities Team Competition in Exeter and unlike the previous year, we were not bottom – progress I think.

I will let Charles report on the financial position of the Club but the key to our viability will be our ability to maintain and grow our membership. The Committee have decided to make no change to either the subscription or the table money this year but will keep this under review.

You will all know that the attendance at afternoon bridge has continued to increase and we may have the pleasant dilemma of where to put tables if numbers continue to grow. Unfortunately, as I reported last year, evening numbers have continued to struggle. We cancelled Monday evenings in the summer and I am sorry to report that Wednesday evenings will stop at the end of this month. Andy Carpenter has worked really hard to keep evenings going but we just do not have a cohort of regular players to ensure getting the four or five tables we need to provide a worthwhile duplicate competition. The primary reason is due to people moving away and not being replaced. Friday evenings are still viable at present although it is a constant struggle to maintain numbers. Thank you to Andy and Ali who have worked so hard to sustain evening bridge at the Club. At the end of the day, sessions are only sustainable if people support them. One idea that the new Committee will be considering is the possibility of running an additional afternoon session on a Wednesday. Again I would be interested in hearing your views.

This year two of our long standing members, Anne Worthington and Paul Martin moved to their new home at Carlyon Bay. They were both regular evening players and you will remember that Anne served on the Committee until last year. We will miss them and I wish them every happiness in their new home. Hopefully we will see them occasionally.

From time to time we award life membership to people who have made a significant and long term contribution to Plymouth Bridge Club and you will be aware of the honours board on the wall. Every year the Committee always considers whether to recommend people to the AGM and this year we would like to propose giving life membership to two people.

The first is Ali Blake. You all know that it is Ali who organises the dealing of the cards every week and who organises and sometimes scores on Friday evenings. Ali doesn't particularly like being in the limelight but does a lot behind the scenes. Ali will tell you how long she has been coming to the club and I remember she was one of the people who vetted me before I was allowed to join!

The second is Andy Carpenter. You know from what I have said about evening bridge that Andy has been its mainstay. He directs and scores sessions and has also played a key role in the competitions Committee over the years. Andy is also a Trustee of the Club.

We take the view that both Ali and Andy deserve this recognition and I am honoured to propose their life membership. Charles seconded the proposal and a show of hands was unanimous.

Thank you again and remember your Committee is here to serve you. We are open and willing to receive feedback and suggestions from you all.

Treasurer's Report: The Club remains in a healthy financial position despite all the improvements that have been made in the last couple of years.

Table money and members subscriptions have increased a little, in part due to new players coming through the lessons. Teaching revenue has increased. Evening players and revenues are down and are of considerable concern. Income from the loan of books is up and all this goes to Devon Air Ambulance.

Our Chair has covered the repairs and refurbishment that have been carried out. We are closer to breaking even on refreshment sales and I think we may well achieve a profit in 2019. Cleaning costs are up and Clare is now paid £60 per week although these costs also include window cleaning. I think some of these costs have been reported elsewhere in the past.

I would like to thank all those who have done the thankless task of collecting the table money at bridge sessions in the afternoons and evenings with a special thanks to Suzanne.

There is a notice regarding new subscriptions on the Treasurer's section of the hall notice board. New subscriptions of £12 are due, payment preferred by Bacs but if not possible, then cheque and lastly in cash. If you do pay by cash then please get a duplicated receipt from a Committee member to avoid any dispute. I would like to thank Eileen Clout for all her help and doing the Accounts.

Ali suggested that the room rental fees be reviewed. Currently we charge £15 for the downstairs card room, £12 for the upstairs card room and £10 for the Committee room.

The Accounts were accepted following Suzanne Cornish proposing and Andy Carpenter seconding.

Presentation of Cups: Pete presented the cups and asked that members sign for them.

The first set of awards are trophies won through sustained good high performance over a significant number of sessions:

Summer Cup	Andy Carpenter
Tudor Cup	Michael Easterbrook
Winter Cup	Andy Carpenter
Tudor Winter Cup	Mal Jones and Martin Jones
Schofield Cup	Bruce Foster and Pete Tunnicliffe

The next series of cups are awarded to pairs below a certain NGS rating which gives us the means of recognising the achievement of pairs who are on their way up:

Joan Till Cup (NGS 4)

Ann Preston and Margaret Wotton

Rupert Shiner Salver (NGS 6)

Pam Keane and Mike Saunders

Joan Hefferman Cup (NGS 8)

Judy Ripley and Alisdair McNaughton

Jill Seymour and Micky Birchall

The next two cups were won on two-session PlayDays:

Pellow Cup

Steve Lacey and Michael Easterbrook

Northcott Cup

Dave Gribbins and Michael Easterbrook

Jan Plumb Cup

Digby Hole and Russ Hanson

Finally a cup awarded to the person who earned the greatest number of masterpoints over the whole calendar year:

Individual Trophy

Jim Dunn

Nominations: The following were agreed.

Steve Lacey, Chair

Pete Tunnicliffe, Vice Chair

Charles Greenlees, Treasurer

Andy Carpenter, Trustee

Ailie Henry, Trustee

Richard Ayres, Committee

Martin Berkin, Committee

Robert Kilbby, Committee

Linda Parry, Committee

Gill Seymour, Committee

Allan Simpson, Committee

Steve thanked everyone for attending.

Ailie Henry