

WALLINGFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd April 2008

Present: G. Rayner (President), P. Simmonds (Vice President), P. Baxter (Chairman), G. Weatherley (Secretary), R. Moore (Treasurer), J. Griffiths (Club Captain), Committee: L. Arnold, J. Barton, F. Glassborow, N. Gascoyne, M. Allin (Membership Secretary) and 29 other members.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from L. Burwood-Smith, G. Lonsdale and G. Nicholas.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 25th April 2007 were taken as read and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report is as follows:

The club has flourished throughout the year especially on Monday evening and Thursday afternoon. We have continued with our teaching programme and Arthur Tulip and Francis Glassborow deserve the clubs thanks for their efforts in running the programme. Arthur is now taking a break from teaching after many years of unstinting effort. It's good to see former pupils contributing to the running of the club and captaining the club's league teams. If anyone is interested in teaching bridge or helping with supervised play please contact Francis. It's many years since Malcolm Simpson started bridge classes for both Wallingford and Abingdon players and involved our members in teaching before he left the area; he still writes the OBA newsletter. Francis also volunteered to house a duplimate machine and so this year we moved to random dealt hands for all our sessions with hand records which include the contracts that can be made on each hand as determined by deep finesse. Deep Finesse, a computer programme which has access to all the hands so don't worry if it does better than you. You may think that the hands are wild but only last week in a hand dealt board my partner held 5116 and I had 3280 shape.

I am retiring as Chair this year and I am sure you will give Colin Jones your prospective Chair your full support; it's not an easy task pleasing bridge players. We have not been able to progress a move back to Wallingford this year, we are however discussing possibilities with the Tennis Club at Hithercroft who are thinking of rebuilding their clubhouse; Roger Haycock a tennis club member is helping us in the discussions.

The Club relies on volunteers for directing, scoring and the general administration of the club, you don't have to be on the committee to help run the club and if you wish to help in any way please contact the secretary Gillian Weatherley.

We need to thank all the people who help to run the club. the committee particularly the Secretary, Gillian, the Treasurer, Richard, the scorers and John Barton who quietly and efficiently opens up and ensures we have all the stationary readily available for our sessions, Philip Simmonds who together with his helpers ensures the smooth running of Monday and Thursday events. The Club Captain Jennie Griffiths who has the difficult task of arranging teams and Captains for the 5 teams of 8 and our annual friendly match with our cousin club Abingdon for the Len Salmon Trophy.

The webmasters Roger and Isobel Stammers, Bill McCarthy, our Membership Secretary Marion Allin, Esme Collins for purchasing the catering supplies.

[The Chairman would like to add his thanks to the Club's Publicity Officer and editor of Trumpit, Debbie Roberts, and apologises for his omission at the AGM.]

You will all be aware by now of the EBU proposals to change it's method of funding. There is no doubt that Bridge requires strong National and International Organisations to arrange and promote all the many activities in the bridge field as in all other fields of sport or mind sports. Many people play bridge competitively but not all are members of the EBU and as such they don't count when the EBU represents the bridge playing fraternity. There is still no government recognition of bridge as a sport and leisure activity hence no funding.

The EBU after consulting other national bridge organisations have proposed a new method of funding to increase its membership; the annual membership subscription will go replaced by a Pay to Play system. The system has been under discussion for about a year and many changes have been made. There is now a 28 page document available outlining their proposals.

Your committee have discussed the proposals and are in broad agreement with them. Should they be introduced we feel we should move to funding the club from table money alone discontinuing the annual subscription which is increasingly difficult to collect. Your table money would cover Club and EBU membership; the County have yet to decide how it will be funded.

Each club session would be uploaded to the EBU and Master Points allocated electronically; the EBU would also provide player handicaps based on current performance.

The EBU shareholders will vote in June on the Pay to Play proposals and if they are to be introduced in 2010 your committee will introduce proposals to the 2009 AGM to introduce them in the club.

F. Glassborow raised the point that consideration should be given to how the club defines its membership in line with the proposed EBU Strategy. This will be discussed by the committee.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, R. Moore reported that the total assets had increased slightly on the last year. The decline in income was due to a reduction in table money

as table numbers were down on Wednesday and Friday. There was a big expense for purchasing the duplimate machine. The club had a surplus and money was allocated to the premises reserve which remains in a healthy state. Further details are available from the Treasurer.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions. J Castle asked why the club has two bank accounts. The treasurer replied that the Alliance and Leicester is our current account and the Scottish Widows is the deposit account. As little as possible is kept in the current account.

T. Burwood-Smith asked why the cost of the master points had gone up. The Treasurer replied that the figure for the previous year was an approximation and an anomaly with money to come over to the current year.

That the accounts should be accepted as a true record was proposed by the Chairman. Accepted by R. Haycock and seconded by J. Barton.

The Chairman expressed the Club's thanks to the Auditor R. Griffiths who agreed to Audit the accounts again this year. Proposed by the Chairman and unanimously accepted.

5. Club Captain's Report

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who represented Wallingford in both the Wessex and Chiltern Leagues. All your contributions have been greatly appreciated.

My special thanks go to the team captains. It is not always recognised how difficult it is to organise a match – and then make sure 8 people turn up on the right night at the right venue! So thank you to Malcolm, Norman, Richard and Wendy for captaining the 4 Wessex Teams, and again to Richard for captaining most of the Chiltern matches as well.

The B team have their last match this evening – after this AGM, but have done enough already to stay in the 1st division having won 3 and lost 3. The A team remain in the 2nd division having won 4 and lost 3. The C team in the 3rd division have had an unfortunate season and are unlucky to be relegated. The D team in the 5th division have had a very good season, and narrowly missed promotion to the 4th division. They won 4 and lost 2.

The Chiltern team finished 2nd having won 4, lost 2 and drawn 1.

I hope that you have all seen the form on the tables (with apologies to Kitchener!) Your club needs you! If we are to continue to run all the teams we need the support of every club member and I hope that you'll fill in the form if you haven't done so already, and this includes Monday players.

In November Wallingford retained the Len Salmon Trophy and look forward to the next match.

I am delighted to be handing over the Club Captain's cap to Ron, who I know will do an excellent job.

Congratulations to Ron and Roger Haycock who did extremely well at the National Pairs semi-final, coming 2nd, which qualified them for the final.

Thank you again for all your support during the last 2 years and a happy St George's Day to you all.

6. Elections

All candidates were voted in unopposed.

President	G. Rayner
Vice Presidents	P Simmonds and J Squires
Chairman	C. Jones
Secretary	G Weatherley
Treasurer	R Moore
Club Captain	Ron Quainton
Committee	M. Allin L. Arnond J. Barton J. Griffiths N. Gascoyne F. Glassborow

The New Chairman, Colin Jones, thanked Peter Baxter for all his efforts and work as Chairman and presented him with a small gift. He said that much of the work in the club was done by a few volunteers and asked all members who were able to help in any way, to please come forward.

The new Chairman presided for the remainder of the AGM.

7. Presentation of Trophies

The Chairman announced the competition winners for 2007. The trophies were presented to the winners attending by the President, Graham Rayner.

Open Individual	Ron Quainton
Open Pairs	Norman Gascoyne and Ron Quainton
Handicap Individual	Andrew Speyer
Handicap Pairs	Andrea Brown and Francis Glassborow
Mixed Pairs	Jean Squires and Norman Gascoyne
Most Improved Player	Andrew Speyer
Most Improved Monday Player	Anne Silvester
Teams	Jennie Griffiths, Paula Hopkinson, Ron Quainton and Peter Russell.
Peard Plate	Jennie Griffiths, Paula Hopkinson, Ron Quainton and Peter Russell
Most Improved Student:	Janet Moor
Len Salmon Trophy:	Club Captain Jennie Griffiths.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business and the AGM closed at 7.30pm.