

Bath Bridge Club
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on 9th March 2006 at 7.40pm

The chairman welcomed members and thanked them for attending the AGM.

Sixty six members were present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Robin Drummond, Shelagh and John Tighe, Jim Harvey, Phil Cooke, Beryl and Keith Selley, Chris Jones, Trish Holland, Mike Lees, Gwynn Davis, Audrey Green, Joyce Oakford, Richard Samter, Jim Corbett and Mary Chappell.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

It was noted that the sum approved in the previous AGM for spending on furnishings was £3700; the actual amount spent was £3466.

Two further corrections were noted, namely that the Jim Swan Plate was won by Avice Rossiter and John Marshall, and that Any Other Business should be item 10. The Minutes were then accepted and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

It was noted that the repair of chairs and purchasing of new tables has been completed and Eric Smith was thanked for supervising these improvements.

The Chairman also commented that the move to larger premises has been a success.

Payment of the webmaster and all helpers was discussed by the committee and it was agreed that the webmaster should not be paid. It was also agreed that a small honorarium should continue to be paid to the Tournament Directors and that any expenses incurred by any helpers should be reimbursed.

4. Chairman's Report

See attached copy.

In addition, Phil Cooke was thanked for his efforts in ensuring the prompt posting of results on the website and the Chairman commented that the website is both informative and attractive to look at.

5. Treasurer's Report

See attached balance sheet.

The Treasurer explained that the deficit was unusual and due to the expense of repairing and replacing furniture – an expenditure which will not recur in the foreseeable future.

The Chairman thanked John Marshall for his work as Treasurer and thanked Keith Selley for auditing the accounts.

No issues were raised and the balance sheet was proposed by Eric Smith, seconded by Denyse Spiller and accepted by the meeting.

6. Election of Officers

There were two nominations for Chairman (John Marshall and Ron King) and John Marshall was elected by ballot.

There were only single nominations for Secretary (Gillian Allan) and Treasurer (Susie Gall) who were duly elected.

There were nine nominations for the seven Committee members. Those elected by ballot were: David Allgood, Pat Davies, Chris Jones, Helen Parkes, Trevor Purches, Eric Smith and Christine MacFarlane. The unsuccessful candidates were Mike Lees and Eve Barwell.

7. Presentation of Annual Trophies

The awards were:

Fred Newell Cup	Paul Keightley
Arthur Jost Plate	Malcolm Aveyard
Jim Swan Plate	Margaret King and Audrey Whitaker
Pepys Trophy	Sylvia Stevens and John Whiting
Committee Awards	John Tighe and John Maggs

Paul Keightley was thanked in particular for all of his work in duplimating.

8. Appointment of Auditors

Keith Selley was thanked for auditing the accounts and was appointed to continue for the following year (proposed by David Allgood and seconded by Eric Smith).

9. Proposal for the Introduction of the Role of Chief Club Tournament Director

This proposal was originally as detailed below. Diana King spoke in favour of this proposal on behalf of the committee.

This is a proposal from the Committee to create the role of Chief Tournament Director who will be appointed by the Committee and will have responsibilities as detailed below.

The Post of Chief Club Tournament Director is a non-elected post appointed by the committee, to be attached to the committee. The person must be well qualified for the task.

The duration of the appointment will be until the committee of the day chooses to cancel it, or the person resigns. It may be reviewed each year. The CTD has the right to attend and vote at committee meetings.

The responsibilities are as follows:

- Advising the committee and members on matters involving laws & ethics, regulations, scoring, master points etc.
- Advising and helping other directors
- Running training days for existing and new directors
- Chairing any Appeals sub-committee
- Directing the club competitions, or appointing a Director so to do
- Being involved in sub-committees dealing with disputes, and matters of discipline
- Keeping a record of psyches from club events

Three major amendments to this proposal were then proposed by Ian Cowley and seconded by Peter Van Praag. These amendments were:

1. That the duration of the appointment will be for one year (i.e. for that years Committee)
2. That the CCTD may attend committee meetings only if requested by the Committee.
3. That the CCTD should not be eligible to vote at committee meetings.

A fourth amendment was also proposed which was that the wording “to be attached to the committee” should be changed to “to be available to advise the committee”.

During the resulting discussion it was pointed out by Pat Davies that even without voting rights the advice of CCTD would influence the Committee anyway. There was also discussion of whether the CCTD should automatically chair any Appeals sub-committee and it was decided that this should also be subject to vote. It was pointed out by Phil Green that the Appeals sub-committee deals with points of Law, as distinct from disputes and matters of discipline which it was not suggested the CCTD should automatically chair.

As a result of these many proposals it was proposed by James Dunlop and seconded by Rodney Weaver that three amendments should be taken separately. These votes would be taken after (and be dependent upon the outcome of) an initial “straw poll” to determine whether the position of CCTD should be created at all.

John Marshall expressed the intention that the Committee would take all comments and amendments into consideration when rewording the formal proposal for next years AGM and the Chairman reminded the members that the aim initially was to gauge people’s opinion of the concept.

The following votes were thus taken:

1. That the CCTD should not automatically chair any Appeals sub-committee. The majority here was for the proposal i.e. “not automatically” with 6 against.
2. That the appointment should last for one year and be made by each year’s committee. Here the vote was for this proposal with 3 against.
3. That the CCTD should not have the right to vote. Here the majority agreed not, with 5 against.
4. The actual approval of the proposal as modified in the meeting. The result of this was overwhelmingly “yes”, with only 2 against.

10. Proposal for the Introduction of the Role of Vice Chairman

This proposal, described by Eric Smith and detailed below, prompted less discussion although it was pointed out that the vice chairman should be “appointed” rather than “elected”. It was agreed that this post should not be seen as Chairman designate. The majority voted for this proposal, with no votes against.

This is a proposal that the Committee elect a Vice Chairman who will take office for one year. The person proposed will already be an elected member of the committee.

Proposed by Eric Smith
Seconded by Diana King

11. Twinning

The discussion of this topic was led by Andrew Clarke who is Vice Chairman of the Bath Aix Twinning Association. He proposed a trip for March 2007 and left details for those who might be interested (copy attached). He informed members that the next meeting of the Twinning Association is scheduled for July 2006 at which time he can facilitate links between Bath and Aix bridge clubs if members would like to pursue this. An informal vote was taken in which the majority approved forging such links.

12. Any Other Business

- a) It was commented upon by Lesley Atkins that players are still guilty of discussing previous hands in front of new opponents, rather than politely greeting new opponents. This it was agreed by all present is unacceptable. Christine MacFarlane suggested putting up in the club a board reminding people of e.g. 10 points of table etiquette.

- b) Master Points on Wednesdays

A proposal by Lesley Atkins, seconded by Christine MacFarlane, to award Master Points on Wednesdays was voted against by the majority.

During the preceding discussion the point was raised by Lesley that Wednesday players should not be discriminated against in terms of master points. Others felt however that not all Wednesday players share that opinion, that it is important to conserve the informal atmosphere of Wednesdays and that Wednesdays are important as an intermediate step for beginners just starting at the club.

Finally John Marshall, on behalf of the Club, thanked Phil Green. In particular Phil is appreciated for the successful move of the club premises from Catharine Place to Twerton and for his contributions towards acquiring the Duplimator and organising Simultaneous pairs and external events. Phil was presented with a gift to show this appreciation.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm