

**Bath Bridge Club**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (Provisional)**  
**Held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7.30pm**

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

Sixty three members were present.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Eileen Roberts, Gordon Mobley, Phil Cooke, Malcolm Aveyard, Tina Cottee, Ron King, Eve Barwell, Joyce Oakford, and Andrew Parkes.

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

The Minutes of the 2006 AGM were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters.

**4. Chairman's Report**

See attached copy.

In addition, Lesley Atkins was congratulated as being part of the winning team with Eve Barwell in the U3A national competition.

Eric Smith, who stood down from the committee, was thanked for his many contributions to the club, including the introduction of Monday evenings, liaison with Bath Football Club, maintenance of equipment, organising the club weekend away and hosting the Christmas party.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

See attached balance sheet.

The Treasurer commented that table money on Wednesdays especially had increased compared to 2005, and that 22 new members had joined in the last year. The Treasurer also commented that it wasn't necessary to depreciate capital expenditure and that in future large items would be written off as quickly as possible and be incorporated into the accounts, which would make the accounts simpler. It was also explained that the difference in EBU affiliation fees between 2005 and 2006 was due to the payment to the EBU being made in 2006 rather than 2005.

The balance sheet was proposed by Steve Elliott, seconded by Eric Smith and accepted by the meeting.

**6. Rule Changes**

There was a suggestion that rule 2.3 should be up to the committee's discretion, but it was agreed that the annual subscription is not a huge amount anyway.

It was clarified that the person elected as Vice Chairman is always eligible for re-election, as long as they are on the committee.

The Rule changes were then voted in, with a large majority in favour and no one against.

## **7. Election of Officers**

There were only single nominations for Chairman (John Marshall), Secretary (Gillian Allan) and Treasurer (Susie Gall) which were duly accepted.

There were seven nominations for the seven Committee members, who were also accepted: Christine Macfarlane, Chris Jones, David Allgood, Rita James, Pat Davies, Phil Cooke and Trevor Purches.

## **8. Presentation of Annual Trophies**

The awards were:

Fred Newell Cup (for most master points gained during the year)	Paul Keightley
Arthur Jost Plate (for the best ten scores over the year)	Paul Keightley
Jim Swan Plate	Peter and Valerie Austwick
Pepys Trophy	Steve Stafford and Jim Corbett
Committee Award (in recognition of work done for the club)	Phil Cooke

## **9. Appointment of Auditors**

Keith Selley was thanked for auditing the accounts and was appointed to continue for the following year (proposed by John Tighe and seconded by Patricia Holland).

## **10. Proposal transfer the Club's Allegiance from Avon to Wiltshire CBA**

This proposal is detailed on the attached sheet. Trevor Purches spoke in favour of this proposal on behalf of the committee.

In addition to mentioning the communication and administration problems of Avon, Trevor pointed out the benefits of location and that Wiltshire is a healthy, growing county in which a lot of teaching is done and in which consequently there are a lot of new players. He also mentioned that far more Bath members play for Wiltshire than are ever invited to play for Avon. Trevor also pointed out that the move would make little difference to members who don't play in county events. It was also established that individual members could remain affiliated to Avon if they wish and that it was anticipated that Wiltshire events would continue to be played in Devizes. Diana King and Phil Green answered questions such as how many county events Wiltshire holds (around 1 per month).

John Doran spoke against the proposal, for reasons that Bath could try to help Avon overcome their administrative shortcomings and that if Bath Bridge Club moved the other Bath clubs would become increasingly isolated in Avon.

In response Phil Green explained that he had tried to improve Bath's relationship with Avon, in cooperation with the Avon Committee, but that members of Avon still didn't come to events in Bath.

Other points raised were to reiterate that it is easier to get to Devizes than to some of the Bristol clubs, that Wiltshire affiliation is cheaper than Avon and that the catering is better at Wiltshire events.

The transfer was then formally proposed by Trevor Purches, seconded by Diana King, and accepted by a large majority, with 5 people voting against.

### **11. Proposal for the Acquisition of Bridgemate**

This proposal, described on the attached sheet, was introduced by Pat Davies. Pat described the system, for the benefit of those who did not attend the demonstration, and listed the main advantage of being that the scores are obtained quickly on the night. This means that the scorers are finished by 11pm, and is better for scorers because there is much less scope for error: the contract and number of tricks are typed in, eliminating problems with legibility and writing the wrong scores. The system also eliminates possible scorer errors in entering the data into the computer. Pat has used the system herself and found it to be easy and was confident that most people would be able to use it fairly easily. Pat also mentioned that the ease of scoring would mean the need for less volunteer scorers and that acquisition of the system would keep Bath in the mainstream of bridge. Grant Ferrie also agreed that error-fixing is time consuming and also pointed out that since E/W pairs also need to press OK, they would then be indisputably jointly responsible for any wrong scores.

Questions were raised about where the system would be stored (at the club) and whether it would be secure (yes), whether there is a support contract (there is a 3 year free replacement policy) and where the product is in its life-cycle (they were introduced 5 years ago and the WBF has invested in them, as did the EBU last year). Our auditor Keith Selley said he thought that the cost (£4344 for 25 units) should not be an issue as the club is not a business, can easily afford it and is unlikely to need the money for anything else. It was also mentioned that the price of the system is unlikely to decrease, having increased in the last few years since becoming established.

Pat then went on to describe how, at Stirling Bridge Club, directors who don't want to set up Bridgemate themselves appoint a "Bridgemate person" to help. She suggested we could have six such people, who would become familiar with running the system. Other issues such as the possibility of starting at 7.15, finishing after 11 or not having a set coffee break were also mentioned (the idea being that people could wait in the club for the scores and have time to discuss them), however it was decided to vote just on the acquisition of Bridgemate in principle, with the implementation to be devised later.

Pat then proposed the acquisition, seconded by Eric, and it was agreed by a large majority with no one against.

### **12. Butler Scoring**

The discussion of this proposal was led by James Dunlop, who had suggested that the club should hold Butler scored sessions on one evening per month. James listed one of the main advantages of this as being variation for players – members could try something new. He described how playing

for match pointed scoring all the time could result in players missing out on some skills such as bidding and playing minor suit contracts, utilising safety plays etc. He also suggested that it would be exciting, citing as an example the difference in score from making a slam or not.

Eric Smith enquired about how Butler scoring can be shown on Bridgемate: Bridgемate doesn't do a running imps score but will give a percentage score. Chris Jones commented that Butler is similar to but easier to organise than teams.

The discussion then progressed to which evenings should be involved and how many per month. Some people were in favour of Tuesdays and Thursdays, some of Wednesdays also etc. Peter Austwick raised his concerns because the results from Butler scoring depend only on a small number of hands: he would prefer to have it no more than once a month. It was decided to have a vote in principle, followed by a straw poll to see how often people would like to have it.

The vote in principle was proposed by James Dunlop, seconded by Chris Jones and voted for by a large majority, with 3 against. The results of the straw poll were: 21 for once a month; 14 for twice; 3 for three times a month.

### **13. Any Other Business**

a) Helen Parkes proposed a rule change, seconded by Gillian Allan, and detailed as in the version below. It was voted on in principle, with no one against, to be incorporated as a formal rule change at the next AGM.

I propose adding a rule:

“An officer of the club, i.e. Chairman, Secretary and/or Treasurer, and Vice-Chairman may not hold that position for longer than 5 years at a time. Thereafter, he/she may stand for election as a committee member, however at least one year must elapse before he/she can stand for a post as a club officer again.”

It was agreed that this should be retrospective and it was pointed out that it is good for the club to have new people involved in its running, and that it is easier to stand for a position which is being vacated than if a regular holder is standing again.

The proposal was accepted, with no one voting against.

b) The logo vote indicated that the members preferred the logo of Pulteney Bridge, followed by the one containing the statue. Comments and tastes varied hugely but generally the members preferred a simple, clean logo showing something from Bath. These opinions will be discussed by the committee.

c) Andrew Clarke spoke briefly about the trip to Aix in June, informing participants that they could learn about the French bidding system from a video or from France online and that he had paid the deposit for their hotel. He also mentioned that a similar group of bridge players from Aix were hoping to visit Bath in 2008 so we might like to consider how to entertain them.

d) The issue of start time was raised again, however it was pointed out that in a previous vote and in the last membership survey no one wanted the start time on Tuesdays and Thursdays brought forward to 7.15p.m.

**The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.**