

Cambridge Bridge Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Andrew's Hall, Chesterton on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Roger Salmon and minutes were taken by Christine Phillips. 40 other members of Cambridge Bridge Club were present.

1. Welcome

Roger welcomed members to the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Joan Braganza, Anne Read, Jeff Fenton, Alison Lloyd, Susan Hilken, Joanne Caldwell, Peter Grice, Ruth Katz

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 29 April 2016

Verity Joubert proposed that these minutes be adopted as a true and accurate record. Penny Riley seconded the proposal. There were no objections and Roger signed a copy of the minutes for the files.

4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

There were no other matters arising.

5. Reports from Officers

Chairman

Roger is delighted that the Club remains so successful. He said that Fred will be reporting shortly on increasing attendance and Jon on competition success. It is vital that we build on this success and maintain it.

Thank yous

We will only be successful if the mechanics of running weekly sessions go smoothly and with a minimum of hassle, and this depends critically on volunteers.

First, Roger thanked the Directors, Scorers and Hosts who have enabled the sessions through the year. Some manage to do this often; others have conflicting commitments and can help only occasionally. All are greatly appreciated. Roger here made special mention of Peter Grice who both directs and scores, who steps in to help when there is a hole and who is our general port of call when there is a difficult problem. Peter, thank you. Roger also made special mention of and thanked the members who have recently volunteered to direct or score: Victor Milman, Ian Hesslewood, Jake Dunn, Paul Fegarty, Jon Cooke, Paul Barden, Carina Negreanu, Jon Bonsor-Matthews and Ben Tarlow. While that is a long list, a number of directors and scorers still find themselves on duty a lot more than they would like, and Roger invited all present to offer their services in this regard if they did not already do so. The Club will happily pay for director training.

This year, unusually, several of our other key volunteers have been unofficial and not members of the Committee.

Jenny Jacobsberg has continued to manage the hosting system that she initiated when she was Chairman, which Roger still regards as perhaps the most important innovation in the Club since he became a member. Many thanks indeed to her: his hope is that she will continue in this role for the coming year.

Verity Joubert has taken on managing the rotas for directors and scorers, filling a hole that had become embarrassing. The system is working smoothly and well and is critically important: many thanks indeed to Verity.

Peter Last has again acted as our auditor, and completed his review of the accounts rapidly and efficiently. Many thanks to him.

Turning to Committee members, Roger said that he would first like to highlight the contributions of the venue reps, who turn up week after week and make sure everything runs smoothly. Alex, Simon, Susan, Clive, Terry and Allison – many thanks. Roger also made an additional thank you and appreciation of Terry's efforts and for the way in which she has, in just a few years, built up the Monday morning sessions to be our most highly attended and most profitable.

Colin does a wonderful job managing our website and related matters. It is a lovely feeling, when there is a problem, to know that all you have to do is e-mail Colin and then, seemingly miraculously, he waves his magic wand and the problem is sorted. We have a website that puts to shame those of the other bridge clubs in Cambridge, and is easy to use. Many thanks indeed.

Fred has been our treasurer for four years and provides wonderful service and impeccable accounting. Roger is delighted that he is willing to stay on for another year.

We promised last year that either Fred or Graham would retire this year, as we need to make sure there is regular rotation of officers so that we do not risk having all change at once. Finding replacements is difficult: Roger is delighted that – subject to his election later in this meeting – John Liebeschuetz has agreed to take over as Secretary from 1st June. Graham has agreed to stay on until that date. Roger very much appreciates the way Graham has supported the Club and its members over the past four years.

The other Committee member who is retiring is Christine Phillips. She has been minutes secretary for nine years and is now able to play bridge only occasionally because of her need to care for her partner. Her commitment to the Club has been extraordinary and – given her other commitments – way beyond any normal expectation.

Roger presented Christine with a bouquet of flowers and said that bottles of wine for Graham and Christine would follow.

Bridge Centre

Roger remains of the view that the single best hope for development of bridge in Cambridge is the possible availability of a dedicated bridge centre. Our discussions are with Grosvenor Estates, who wish to redevelop the Cambridge United ground and also to provide a sports centre and training pitch in Trumpington Meadows. Their proposals would give a newly established bridge charity dedicated space in the sports centre, and the charity would then let out the space to the various bridge clubs on different mornings, afternoons and evenings. The proposals are contingent on Grosvenor obtaining rights to build a lot of new housing on Green Belt land between Trumpington Meadows and the M11, and this is controversial. We still wait on news from the Planning Authorities as to whether consent will be available. Roger checked this morning: the earliest date for planning consent is late May

Bridge Teaching

Finally, Roger thanked Jon Cooke for offering to teach an advanced class on hand valuation for members on May 18th, and he encouraged all to attend: he certainly looked forward to attending himself. You do not need a partner in order to take part.

Treasurer

Fred reported that CBC made a loss of £221 in 2016-17. The main changes in expenditure were a 4% increase in the rent of Trumpington Village Hall and the purchase of 15 sets of plastic bidding cards for £307. Improved attendance on Mondays and Tuesdays helped to offset the increase in hall rent.

Membership

Current Membership is 180, which is 12 more than last year.

Attendance and Surplus/Loss per Session

Day	2016/17 average no. of tables	increase over 2015/16	Surplus/(Loss) per session
Monday	8.95	38.1%	£11.67
Tuesday	8.44	10.6%	£5.97
Wednesday	7.34	0.7%	(£18.77)
Total	24.73	15.6%	(£1.14)

Table Money and Members' Annual Subscription

The committee recommended that there should be no changes in the annual subscription and table money

Fred thanked Peter Last for his detailed auditing of the accounts.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Carol, seconded by Julian and carried nem con.

Secretary

Graham reported that CBC is so far managing to avoid the general trend among clubs of gradually declining membership. As the Treasurer reported, membership this year is 7% up on last year, after a couple of years of static numbers, although this isn't always reflected in the number of people playing. Continuing efforts to encourage new bridge players are obviously essential.

The club continues to benefit from affiliation to the EBU who are also active in promoting the health and social benefits of bridge. The club acknowledges this work by holding EBED Sims at Trumpington in two weeks time.

As of yesterday the EBU has amended the laws for duplicate bridge. For example, if a claim is made during a hand it is now no longer compulsory to suspend play; instead it can continue if all four players agree. There is a video available on Youtube that outlines the law changes, but if you watch it don't expect to enjoy riotous humour or great excitement.

The Committee will soon be considering the next calendar. It is hoped that the current year programme has satisfied all your bridge cravings, but if you have any comments or suggestions for the future please don't hesitate to mention them

Venue Representatives

Trumpington. Susan Hilken has reported that all is running smoothly apart from an ongoing discussion about the heating which David Carmichael is having with the TVH officer, and which David thinks he is winning.

Club Captain

Jon had emailed this brief report:

Nicko .

Of the 7 teams entered Cambridge F (Adam/Carina/Jon Bonsor-Matthews/Graham Dolan) is the last remaining standard bearer and has reached round 5.

Garden Cities

CBC was second last year, as we were the previous year.

CBC has qualified for the regional final to be held the weekend after next.
3 teams were in the qualifier at Peterborough. Jon received good feedback from this.

Cambs and Hunts League

Jenny Jacobsberg team is 3rd in Div 1

Div 2 team has one match to go – currently second but a big win will probably see them win the league.

Good luck to: Jackson/Grice/Oram/Pierce/Katz

Div 3 Penny's team are looking favourite for 3rd with a match to go.

Jon congratulated Paul Fegarty and Catherine Curtis on winning the Portland Pairs.

David Kendrick has represented England Seniors in the European and World Championships.

Chief Tournament Director

No report received

Publicity Officer

No report received

Information Officer

No report received

6. Table Money and Subscriptions

It was proposed by Peter Last, seconded by Abdelsalaam Abdel-Moneim and agreed nem con that these remain at their current levels. Therefore, table money will remain at £2.50 for members, £3.50 for visitors, £1 for student members and £1.50 student visitors. The annual subscription will remain at £15 and £5 for students.

7. Frequency of cross-imps events

Roger said that we tend to have high attendance at events scored with cross-imps, but we typically only hold these events at one venue once a month. Members were invited to give their views on whether these events should be held more frequently – for example at both venues once a month. Views varied, two or three were strongly in favour and two or three definitely not. Jenny thought that calendar was quite crowded already. Richard Earnshaw was concerned that having cross-imps scoring at both venues would disadvantage those who can only play at one venue. Penny said that the introduction of extra rounds in the Cradock had reduced attendance at each event. Roger sensed that there was no consensus and it was agreed to keep to the current number of cross-imps events.

8. Election of the Auditor

Peter Last was re-elected, proposed Abdel, seconded Verity and agreed

9. Election of the Committee for 2017-18

Nominations for the various positions are as follows:

Chairman – Roger Salmon

Vice-Chairman – Alex Green

Secretary – John Liesbeschuetz

Treasurer – Fred Langford

Club Captain – Jon Cooke

Tournament Director – no candidate

Trumpington representatives – Susan Hilken, Simon Stokes

Chesterton representatives – Clive Stops, Alex Green

Monday Club representative – Terry Otterman

Abdel proposed that the committee be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Victor, and carried nem con.

Jenny asked about the vacant Tournament Director position. Roger said that he has identified a potential candidate and will talk with him soon..

10. Presentation of Trophies

The winners of the club trophies for the year are as follows:-

Individual Championship – Roy Cradock Bowl

Paul Barden

Club Championship Pairs Trophy

Adam Bowden, Carina Negreanu

Cross IMP Pairs Championship – Jacobs Shield

Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis

Swiss Pairs – Wraight Cup

Paul Barden, David Kendrick

Summer Pairs – Abdelmoneim Trophy

Victor Milman, Nadia Stelmashenko

Teams of Four League – Collis Plate

Julian Wightwick, John Liebeschuetz,
Paul Fegarty, Catherine Curtis, Clive
Stops, Audrey Kueh

Teams of Four – Marie Johnson Trophy

Alan Shillitoe, David Kendrick, John
Cooke, Paul Barden

Handicap Teams – May Pamplin Shield

Ann How, Richard Collis, David Kendrick,
Victor Milman

Equinox Handicap – Zakrzewska Plate

Autumn 2016

Arie Schechter, Rosanne Mattick

Spring 2017

Terry Otterman, Allison Kaye

Roger congratulated the winners and presented trophies to those who were present, with the exception of the Abdelmoneim Trophy which was presented by Abdel himself.

11. Any other business

There was none

The Meeting closed at 7.35 pm