

Cambridge Bridge Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Online on Monday 25th of May at 7.00 pm

The meeting was chaired by Paul Barden and minutes were taken by Rosemary Tate. 23 other members of Cambridge Bridge Club were present.

1. Welcome

Paul welcomed members to the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Sarah Dixon, Renee Tanburn, Dave Parish, Gilli Harhoff, Jennifer Cornwell, Sarah Dixon, Jon Cook, Jeff Fenton.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 11th May 2021

The minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record of this meeting. Proposed by Rosemary Tate and seconded by Paul Barden.

4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports from Officers

Chairman

We returned to face to face bridge on Monday mornings in November (with a suspension over Christmas due to Covid rates) and last week we restarted Tuesday evening bridge at Trumpington Village hall. The club now runs a mixture of face to face and online bridge.

Online payments are a new welcome change. Many thanks to Fred Langford and Colin Sills for setting this up.

We do need volunteers to make the club work, Paul thanked all the volunteers.

Treasurer

Last year there was a surplus of £1964. Since then we have spent approximately €3000 on a new dealing machine The cashless system has gone very well.

Secretary

Sadly this year we lost Bryan Last and Robert Brookes, who were valued members of the club and will be sorely missed

Tuesday evening bridge restarted last week. Thanks to Vic and Fred for getting it up and running. In order to keep face to face going we need more volunteers.

Three members are attending the EBU teachers training course in June.

Directors course in Newmarket is still pending but Roger Timmins is hoping to have a date soon. Two members of the club have expressed an interest. Please let Rosemary or Roger know if you want to attend. It is likely that the club will pay as we need more directors.

The club away weekend was very successful despite all the problems with heating and cooking at the hotel. Thanks to Terry Otterman and Alison Kaye for organising. Fred Langford will organise it at the same hotel next year

Thanks to the outgoing Chair for all his sterling work and dealing all the boards for us .

Thanks also to Clive Stops who is also stepping down after 5 years on the committee and to Jon Cooke who is stepping down due to family commitments.

On line Coordinator

At the peak of the lockdown we were playing 6 days a week online. Now we have restarted face to face some people still only want to play in person and some only online. We gradually reduced the online games to Thursday, Tuesday and Saturday and now we have returned to face to face on Tuesday there is no longer an evening RealBridge game. Saturday morning is not very well attended so is questionable. Thanks to Peter Grice, Roger Salmon, Rosemary Tate, John Liebeschuetz, Michele Conway, Terry Otterman, Allison Kay and William Clenell for directing the online games.

It was suggested that we offer free games for scorers and that it would be good to restart competitions. This will be discussed by the Committee.

Club Captain

Graham Hazel reported the results of these competitions:

The delayed 2019-20 season is finally over for CBC.

In the **NICKO**, the 'A' team were eliminated in the semi-finals, and the 'B' team in the quarter-finals.

The 'A' team was Paul Barden, Jon Cooke, Catherine Jagger, Chris Jagger, Jonathan Mestel and Julian Wightwick.

In this year's competition (2021-22) we have three teams through to the last 16.

Garden Cities

In the Regional Final, CBC missed out on the split-tie for the all-important 4th qualifying spot by 1 VP - losing a slam swing on the final board!

The team was Catherine Curtis, Jamie Fegarty, Liam Fegarty, Paul Fegarty, Graham Hazel, David Kendrick, Jonathan Mestel and Julian Wightwick.

6. Table Money and Subscriptions

Fred Langford suggested that we keep subscriptions and fees as they are. This was proposed by Geoff Ellis and seconded by Joanne Caldwell and unanimously agreed. Therefore, table money will remain at £2.00 for members, £3.50 for visitors, £1 for student members and £1.00 student visitors. The annual subscription will remain at £15. Membership will not be charged for students. In future membership fees for the new bridge year will be charged on the anniversary of the date that people join.

7. Return to face-to-face update and discussion

There were 4 1/2 tables last Tuesday. We still need a Tuesday coordinator. Graham Dolan suggested an overall coordinator for both Monday morning and Tuesday games to avoid dividing into three or four separate sub-clubs according to the day of the week. The general consensus was that while this was good idea, it might not be practicable since it's much easier to get volunteers for directing, scoring, etc., when you see people face to face. Rosemary suggested that we hold some events that will unify the club, such as the Christmas party or some weekend events.

Graham Dolan indicated that he may be willing to coordinate the Tuesday evening games. The committee will discuss further, noting members' feedback.

8. Discussion on the way forward for Wednesday evening online bridge.

Peter Grice has been running online county games for 95 consecutive Wednesdays. They were started to help smaller clubs during lockdown, with the expectation that they would be short-lived. Peter says he is happy to hand over the Wednesday slot to the club if it can be an open game and if we waive the visitors fee for county players who are not CBC members. This suggestion was seconded by Clive Stops and carried unanimously. The committee will discuss and sort out any practical problems involved with payment.

Members were very keen to run the game on Real Bridge rather than BBO. Jonathan Bonsor-Matthews offered to organise the Wednesday evening games for a while.

9. Request by Trumpington Village Hall for a volunteer trustee.

Vic Morris has been contracted with a request for a volunteer for their board of trustees. Members were asked to contact Michele if they are interested in taking on that role.

10. Election of the Auditor

Peter Last was proposed by Michele Conway and seconded by Julian Wightwick. He was reelected with no opposition.

11. Election of the Committee for 2021-22

Nominations for the various positions are as follows:

Chairman – Michele Conway

Vice-Chairman – Vic Morris

Secretary – Rosemary Tate

Treasurer – Fred Langford

Club Captain – Graham Hazel

Online Coordinator and Monday organiser – Vic Morris

Membership Secretary - Sarah Dixon

County delegate and Bridge Webs – Peter Grice

Paul proposed that the committee be elected en bloc, seconded by Katrin Peters. This was accepted by the meeting with no dissent.

12. Any other business

Michele Conway said she hopes to be a good chair and help the club grow.

Julian Wightwick asked if there was any evidence of Covid transmission at the Monday games and Vic said he knew of none. Ruth Katz said this information would be difficult to obtain.

Anne Swinney was concerned about the lack of players on Saturdays and also the large number of robot players. Vic proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing chair and membership secretary (seconded by Rosemary and agreed by all)

The Meeting closed at 8.10pm