

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2008 at the Guild Hall, Abingdon at 7.00pm

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Keith Sadler and Gillian Lonsdale,

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

It was proposed that the minutes of the last meeting should be accepted as read. Acceptance was proposed by Ray Ball and seconded by Joe Fox.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report

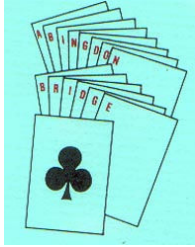
It was Gordon's final report as Chairman, as under the club constitution he is required to retire having served, in this office, for three consecutive years. He reported that:-

"Membership of the club remains fairly static, although there was a slight decline in average attendance numbers during 2007. It is hoped that the introduction of the host system at the beginning of this year will help to reverse this trend. Indeed, I would strongly urge all members to actively support the scheme, both in volunteering to occasionally act as the host, and to utilise the services of the host on other occasions.

The financial position of the club remains strong with total reserves of approximately £4,000. Chris Lloyd will present his Treasurers report in greater detail later, but I do wish to draw your attention to the fact that there was a small excess of expenditure over income during the last financial year. The figure for expenditure does, however, include a transfer of £200 to a 'replacement table' reserve fund. The committee believes that it is prudent to set aside funds annually for this purpose. The accounts for 2007 have been fully audited by Richard Moore.

Table money has remained unchanged for a number of years. The committee has considered an increase but has previously chosen to leave the figure unchanged, preferring to carry any small 'trading' deficits in the short term through utilisation of reserves. Events currently before us, however, may lead to an increase in table money in the near future.

The EBU has proposed that the organisation move to a 'pay 2 play' scheme for the raising of funds. I know some members have concerns regarding the scheme, but this appears to relate more to the way that the EBU spends its funds, rather than the way that the funds are raised. A majority of the committee believe that these are two separate issues. How funds are raised will not affect the way funds are spent, even if some of the concerns regarding the latter are justified. In all probability the amount



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proposed will be in the region of 40p per person per session. Chris Lloyd has, however, calculated that the actual increase to the club will be approximately 24p per person per session with the benefit of free master points. EBU members currently pay an annual subscription of £20 (including the OBA subscription of £3). This of course would cease with the introduction of “pay to play”, and for those members playing just once a week, an extra 24p would actually represent an annual saving. Indeed, those playing twice a week would be only marginally worse off. Those most affected will of course be those who are not currently members of the EBU, who, it could be argued, have their organised entertainment subsidised by others. The committee believes that the figures involved still represent excellent entertainment value. As far as the committee is concerned, there is no question of this club withdrawing its membership of the EBU.

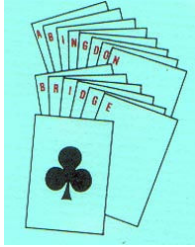
Of possibly more immediate concern is a proposed increase in the cost of renting these premises. We recently received a letter from The Vale of White Horse District Council notifying us of the staged withdrawal of the Community Group Discount. At present the cost of renting the council chamber is £20 per hour, which for 3.75 hours equates to £75.00. As a community group we currently receive a discount of 50% resulting in a figure payable of £37.50 per evening. It is not too difficult to calculate, therefore, that on a 10 table evening, approximately two thirds of the table money collected is required for the rental of the premises.

Rental of the Abbey Room for league matches costs £12 per hour, which for 3.50 hours equates to £42.00 – reducing to £21 with the benefit of the discount. In addition, we pay £1.20 per person for tea, coffee and biscuits, a total of £19.20. The total cost per home league fixture is currently therefore £40.20. This cost is partly offset through the collection of £3 per member of the team for home matches, i.e. a total of £24.

These figures are already set to be increased by 5% from 1 April 2008.

The Vale of White Horse District Council had proposed that the Community Group Discount be reduced to 30% with effect from 1 April 2008, reducing to 15% in April 2009 and to zero in April 2010.

We would, however, be eligible to apply for a 20% multi booking discount. This we do not currently receive as organisations are only eligible for one discount. Nonetheless, if the proposals were to be implemented, the club faced a considerable increase in its expenditure, and an increase in table money to say £3 per person per evening may not have been out of the question. The new committee may need to consider other venues, although the choice of venues within Abingdon is extremely limited. We may also need to consider cutting costs in other areas, although it is difficult to see where any significant cuts can be made. One possible area for review is in the cost of duplimated boards, the cost of which has recently been increased to £9 per set.



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The committee arranged for a strongly worded letter of protest to be sent to various members of the Vale of White Horse District Council. As a result of our protest, and possibly that of others, the Council Leader made explicit reference to the planned scheme reduction at the council meeting on 29 February held to set the council budget for 2008/09. The Executive have agreed to defer any changes for one year, giving time for discussions to take place with Wantage and Abingdon Town Councils about how discounts for local community groups can be funded. We await further events.

The Christmas party again proved successful, particularly with regards to the food, for which great thanks must go to David Walton and his daughters, but also to Karen Hughes, Valerie Welch and Jean Moore for their assistance.

Similarly, I would like to thank Karen Hughes, Valerie Welch and Jean Moore for the undertaking of the catering for the annual Len Salmon Memorial Trophy match against Wallingford. The match result was not what we would have wanted (for those who don't know – we lost) but efforts will be made to regain the trophy this year.

One event which has not proved very popular in recent years is the Summer Frolics, where attendances are noticeably reduced. The new committee may need to consider either changing the format or dropping the event completely.

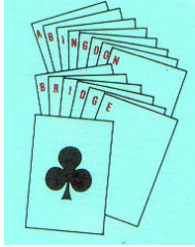
In the Wessex League, the 'A' team are currently in joint 6th place out of eight in Division One. This season has obviously been extremely challenging, following on from the winning of the Division Two title last year. The 'B' team are currently in 1st place out of eight in Division Three. Promotion is not yet mathematically achieved; all will depend on the final fixture against Blewbury 'A', including the destination of the title itself. The 'C' Team are currently 3rd out of seven in Division Three, with promotion still a possibility.

There have been a number of notable personal successes during the year. Amongst these were the team of John Clifford, Clive Keep, Nigel Wilkes and Gillian Lonsdale winning the Harwell Cup, John Clifford, Peter Russell, Norman Gascoyne and Peter Finbow from Wallingford winning The Haddenham Swiss Teams, and Nigel Wilkes partnered by Mike Webley winning the County Men's Pairs.

The committee has decided, this year, not to make a nomination for Life Membership.

Once again I would appeal to all members to play their part in the smooth running of the club, particularly with the clearing up at the end of the evening.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the retiring committee – that is Clive Keep, David Walton, Chris Lloyd, Graham Simpson, Jean Moore, Brian Moore, Valerie Welch and Karen Hughes – for all their valuable work and assistance over the



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last 12 months. I would like to pay particular thanks to Chris Lloyd who is retiring after three years as an excellent club treasurer.

Chris Lloyd, Valerie Welch and Karen Hughes will not be seeking re-election to the committee”.

5 Treasurer’s Report

Chris Lloyd presented his treasurer’s report. Again, like the Chairman it would be his last report. He stated that there had been a deficit of income over expenditure of £283 for this year, which was at the lower end of the deficit predicted at the last AGM. The deficit was covered by reserves but in view of increasing costs the new Committee may need to consider an increase in table money. Chris also pointed out that out of the £1.50 table money £1.24 of it goes in rent – so the proposed increases in the latter will have a significant effect. The Treasurer then thanked Richard Moore for auditing the accounts and Jean Moore and Hari Shah for taking the table money on Tuesdays when he wasn’t there.

6 Election of Committee Members

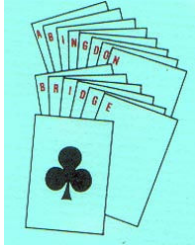
Notice was previously placed on the notice board seeking nominations for officers for the next 12 month’s, Nominations have been made for David Walton to be elected chairman, Gordon Carroll vice-chairman, Clive Keep secretary and Andrew Speyer treasurer. In addition, Jean Moore, Brian Moore, Graham Simpson, Keith Sadler and Jan Van Maanen have offered their services as committee members. There being no counter nominations, those mentioned were duly elected.

At this point, David Walton called for a vote of thanks to the out going Chairman, Gordon Carroll. This was acknowledged by all.

7 Presentation of Trophies

The Chairman then presented the Club trophies for the year 2008/8 as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Individual Club Champion | - Stephen Marsh |
| Open Pairs | - Debbie Roberts & Peter Russell |
| Handicapped Pairs | - Gordon Carroll & Ray Ball |
| Large Cup (Mixed Pairs) | - Alison Jackson & Peter Jackson |
| Autumn Cup | - Andrew Ashworth & Brian Burgess |
| Spring Cup | - Andrew Ashworth & Brian Burgess |



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8 EBU expenditure/Pay 2 Play proposals

Jan Van Maanen then presented his opinions on the EBU Pay 2 Play scheme – his main aim was to make his views known to all members. His main complaint was that the EBU spends more on international players than on all the 26000 EBU members put together. He felt that EBU expenditure should be more relevant to Club members and he had been asked to join the committee to assist in expressing his views.

The Chairman felt that it was more appropriate to present these opinions to the EBU share holders via our two elected representatives. He felt too that all club members should be members of the EBU – those not joining are enjoying their bridge at the expense of those who do join.

There were some general questions from the floor:-

- One member asked whether all the money raised at Charity SIMS events went to the nominated charity – or whether some found its way to the EBU. It was felt by the Committee that the EBU has no input to the charity SIMS events whatsoever; they were run by Anna Gudge of ECATS. Here it was felt that all possible monies went to the charities, except for printing/postage costs etc.

- It was asked whether we should send a letter to the Guildhall about the rent going up – the Chairman replied that the committee had done this and managed to get (maybe along with other complaints) the increases deferred for one year, as stated in his report.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Meeting closed at 7.32pm

Clive Keep, Honorary Secretary