

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 17th March 2009 at the Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon at 7.15 pm

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Keith Sadler, Gillian Lonsdale, Kate Gould, Helen Davies.

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

It was proposed that the minutes of the last meeting should be accepted as read. This was agreed by those present at the meeting.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

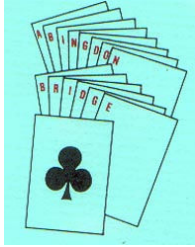
4 Chairman's Report

It was David Walton's first report as Chairman. He reported that:-

'The biggest change to our Club over the last 12 months has been the switch of our weekly venue to here at the Long Furlong Community Centre. The move was made necessary when we discovered that the charge for the Guildhall was supposed to be more than £100 per session, which would have made us by far the most expensive club in the County. As a result, the Committee looked at several possible venues and decided that Long Furlong Community Centre offered the best mix of comfort and value for money. There don't seem to have been any major problems over the last ten weeks, and no doubt members will let the Committee know if any arise. As part of the same problem with the Guildhall charges, we have also moved the home Wessex League matches to Hadland Road Community Centre which, although not quite as well appointed as Long Furlong, is available every Monday evening and is very good value for money.

This year the Club regained the Len Salmon trophy after a very enjoyable and closely fought match against Wallingford. I have high hopes that we can continue that success next year. In the Wessex League our C team has had some ups and some downs, but looks likely to keep its place in Division 4. The B team won promotion to Division 2 last year, but unfortunately is in danger of relegation next year. The A team has had more success in Division 2 and it is still just possible that they might get promoted next year.

In January one of our regular members, John Cetti very sadly passed away unexpectedly and we have all missed his friendly and cheerful presence. Also this year, Ray Ball, one of the club's life members, has sadly had to give up playing due to ill health.



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The committee has spent quite a lot of time this year considering the implications and development of the EBU's Pay to Play scheme, and this will very probably be completed in the coming year. The committee has decided not to make any nominations for Life membership this year.

I would like to say thank you to all the people who have helped make the club run so successfully over the last 12 months. In particular I would like to thank all the members of the retiring committee and in particular Clive Keep who has done sterling work as Secretary, and Andrew Speyer who has successfully taken over the Treasurer's job and made it his own. I would also like to thank the three Wessex League team captains, and also Gordon Carroll for organising the Len Salmon event, Graham Simpson for scoring each week, Clive Keep for running the website, Richard Moore for being our auditor and all those members who direct on club nights. I would also very much like to thank all those members who have volunteered to be hosts over the last 12 months'.

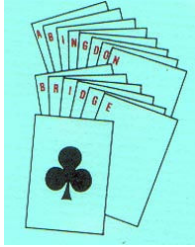
5 Treasurer's Report

Andrew Speyer presented his treasurer's report as hard copy to those present. Again, like the Chairman it would be his first report. Andrew stated that in 2008 (the accounts run on a calendar basis) there was an operating deficit of £647 - absorbed this year by reducing balances. Income was down £317, both as a result of falling membership/attendance and less bank interest. Our expenditure has increased this year by £46, even though we did not have to pay for the Len Salmon event. We need to note that we can expect to spend about £120 on this in 2009. Because of our move to Long Furlong Community Centre, the club has had to purchase Public Liability Insurance at an extra cost of £63.50 per annum. It was noted that there was a large corkage charged by the VWHDC for last year's Christmas party – at least this will not happen this year!

Andrew predicted that the club should break even in 2009, mainly due to the cheaper rent. He would expect to increase the table money in 2010, once the EBU proposals for P2P have been finalised and contractual arrangements agreed with clubs.

Andrew thanked Richard Moore for auditing the club accounts again this year.

There were some questions from the floor – Hari Shah asked how much rent the club was saving now we had moved to Long Furlong. Andrew replied that the savings were £17 per week based on the original charges at the Guild Hall but these savings increase massively when comparison is made with what we would have had to pay if we had stayed. Gordon Carroll commented that these savings could be calculated to be about £149 per week once we started paying the full charges requested by the Guild Hall (assuming no inflationary rise) in 2009.



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Karen Hughes asked when the club would be paying the P2P charges – David replied that it was planned to be from April 2010.

6 Election of Committee Members

A notice had been placed on the notice board seeking nominations for officers for the next 12 months. No nominations had been recorded there but nominations were made from the floor on the day. David Walton was elected chairman (nominated by Gordon Carroll), Gordon Carroll vice-chairman (nominated by David Walton), Mike Baker secretary (nominated by Gordon Carroll) and Andrew Speyer treasurer (nominated by Jean Moore). In addition, Jean Moore, Brian Moore, Graham Simpson, Keith Sadler and Ian Van Maanen have offered their services as committee members. There being no counter nominations, those mentioned were duly elected.

All those elected take office on the 1st April 2009.

7 Presentation of Trophies

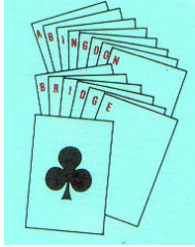
The Chairman then presented the Club trophies for the year 2008/9 as follows:-

- Individual Club Champion - Stephen Marsh
- Open Pairs - Clive Keep and John Clifford
- Handicapped Pairs - Pat Stewart and John Boon
- Large Cup (Mixed Pairs) - Norman Gascoyne and Jean Squires
- Autumn Cup - Norman Gascoyne and Jean Squires
- Spring Cup - Graham Simpson and Brian Cooper

David also proudly paraded the Len Salmon Trophy!

8 The Host System

The Chairman then went on to discuss the Club's Host system. 23 members had been host during 2008 and there had been no host for 6 weeks. It can be a problem to get sufficient hosts. It did mean however, that the club had an extra 1 or 2 tables each week. It was felt that we should not attempt to make it 'compulsory' as this would be inappropriate and impossible to enforce. One problem had emerged because one or two members did not wish to play with particular members. It was felt by the meeting that this could not be tolerated – if you turn up and wish to play, using the host



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system, then you play as directed. It was realized that all members could not offer their services as host due to transport/distance considerations. Some members felt that it was reasonable to be a Host at Wallingford BC, for example (as going home afterwards would not mean travelling too great a distance) but having to travel back from Abingdon would mean a relatively long journey. This was accepted by the meeting.

It was agreed by show of hands that the meeting recommended that the new committee continue with the system for the time being.

9 Any Other Business

Jayne Castle raised the subject of teaching bridge – maybe the club should ask someone to attend any night school courses and introduce ourselves to try and get new members. It was suggested by the Chairman that this was probably not appropriate. Gordon Carroll said that Malcolm Simpson used to run a course at the Abingdon College of further education – but this course had been scrapped due to cost implications. Valerie Welch suggested that the Club put a notice on the Oxford BC notice board about our club – it was felt that Oxford BC would not appreciate this!

There was some discussion about finishing times on Tuesday nights and it was agreed that Directors should notify players on the likely finishing time with a couple of rounds to go – rather than leave members ‘in limbo’.

The Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Clive Keep, Honorary Secretary