



ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2010 at the Long Furlong Community Centre, Abingdon at 7.15 pm.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Keith Sadler, Andrew Ashworth, Clive Keep, Norman Gasgoine, Jean Squires and Richard Moore.

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

David Walton reported that:-

"The Club has now completed more than a year here at the Long Furlong Community Centre, including holding our first Christmas party. We seem to have settled in very comfortably, apart from the occasional parking problem and having to squeeze in a bit if we have 12 or more tables.

After much discussion the Committee has decided to affiliate to the EBU's pay to play scheme. This means that from 1 April 2010 the Club will have to pay the EBU a fee of 29p for every person who plays at every session that the Club holds, plus an additional 3p to the Oxfordshire Bridge Association. However, all members of the Club will now have free personal membership of the EBU.

After very careful consideration the Committee has decided to put the weekly table money up to £2 for members and £3 for non-members, again with effect from 1 April 2010. This is the first increase since 2004, and we should be able to keep to this price for several years into the future, barring unforeseen problems.

The Committee spent several meetings discussing the possible purchase of the BridgeMate scoring system. After careful deliberation we went ahead last month, and after a rather shaky start this will now be a regular feature. The big advantage, of course, is that the results will be available at the end of the evening and will also normally be on our website at the start of the next day. The results on the website will also give members the chance to see the contracts that everyone else was in. Another useful side effect is that when choosing the movements for use with the BridgeMates we have gone over to 24 board Howell movements.

All of the home Wessex League matches over the last twelve months have been held in Hadland Road Community Centre and we now have a full set of tables, cards and other equipment permanently stored for our use at the Centre. It is fair to say that Hadland Road is not a perfect environment, but at the moment it seems to be the best that is available to us, and it is very good value for money.

In the Wessex League our A team has done well in Division 2 and with 3 matches still to play could well gain promotion. The B team, also in Division 2, has had a fairly miserable season so far, and will be very lucky to escape relegation. Similarly our C team has struggled in Division 4 and also looks like it might be heading South next year. On a more positive note, the Club won the Len Salmon trophy for the second year running after a very enjoyable match against Wallingford and I have high hopes that we can make it a hat trick next year.

This year we mourned the loss of two people who contributed enormously to the Club over many years. Ray Ball, one of the Club's Life members, sadly died after a very brave fight with a long term illness. We were also saddened to hear just a few weeks ago that Dorice Atkinson, who was a founder member of the Club, had passed away.

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 thank all the members of the committee, especially Mike Baker who has successfully taken on the job of Secretary and Andrew Speyer for all his work as Treasurer. 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.

One of the outgoing Committee's final decisions was to nominate Gordon Carroll as a Life Member of the Club. Gordon has worked tirelessly for the Club over many years, including a 3 year stint as Chair. It is a very well deserved honour and to celebrate he and his wife have gone on a two week cruise of the Caribbean!"

5 Treasurer's Report

Andrew Speyer (AS) confirmed the main points of the Accounts for 2009. The Club has recorded a surplus of £627 (compared to a £647 deficit in 2008) though outstanding rent to Hadland Road and a raffle donation still to pass on to the Citizen's Advice Bureau means the surplus was around £407. The main reasons for the upturn in the finances from 2008 were higher attendances and lower rent, despite the lower income from account interest. The savings account money has now been used to purchase Bridgemates. AS went on to say that rental outgoings make up only 29% of bridge income now, compared to 67% before, enabling more money to be spent on bridge related items. AS concluded by thanking Richard Moore for his work as auditor of the accounts.

6 **Presentation of Trophies**

The Chairman then presented the Club trophies for the year 2009/10 as follows:-

Individual Club Champion	- Andrew Ashworth
Open Pairs	- Clive Keep and John Clifford
Handicapped Pairs	- Brian Burgess and Joe Fox
Large Cup (Mixed pairs)	- Carol and Richard Moore
Spring Cup	- Kate Gould and Mike Baker
Autumn Cup	- Gordon Carroll and Peter Murphy

The Len Salmon Trophy was also displayed following its retention by Abingdon last year.

7 **Volunteers to help with the running of the Club**

DW made a plea for new helpers regarding tidying up at the end of the evening, volunteering to go on the host system or join the Committee.

8 **Election Of Officers**

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 Jean Moore), Mike Baker was elected Secretary (nominated by John May), Andrew Speyer was elected Treasurer (nominated by Betty Yearling) and Gordon Carroll was elected vice-Chairman in his absence. In addition, Jean Moore, Brian Moore, Keith Sadler and Graham Simpson were duly elected as Committee members. It is expected that Ian Van Maanen will also be on the Committee but this will need to be confirmed. Jane Castle confirmed she would wish to stand for election on the Committee in 12 months and Jean and Brian Moore confirmed this would be their last year on the Committee.

9 **Any Other Business**

Jayne Castle asked what would happen if more than 12 tables-worth of players arrived in an evening. David Walton confirmed his hope that we could accommodate 14 tables if necessary but that there isn't a working plan yet as to how 14 tables will be laid out. Should there be too many people on a particular evening non-members would be turned away before members.

Jayne Castle asked about master points under Pay-2-Play. David Walton confirmed that this would still be updated by the EBU, and paid for with the £2 table money each week. All master points, including those accumulated during a SIMS event would now be recorded electronically by the EBU.

Jean Moore asked if we were buying 4 more tables and David Walton advised that we are fine with 14 at the Long Furlong address and a further 4 at Hadland Road.

David Walton now asked about the number of copies of the hands we needed in paper form, as the hands were available on the website. Roughly 6 – 8 players expressed a wish for paper copies to

continue so David agreed to bring 10 – 15 copies in per week and save on photocopies. A further saving would now be made with no need for travellers to be purchased. Jean Moore asked if the optimum contract for NS and EW could be shown but David felt the software could not do this at the moment.

John May referred to the host system at Summertown where people are allocated a particular week to be host and wondered if that would be a good system for us to employ at Abingdon. It would mean most people would be host just once a year. David Walton pointed out there had been a vote 12 months ago for the current system but conceded there had been some gaps without a host in recent weeks. Jayne Castel suggested we roster people for the weeks when no one has volunteered and Michael Hosking and Kate Gould both suggested a bigger incentive for being the host when the host does not play. David Walton confirmed the matter would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Brian Burgess asked about getting the hands on the Bridge Club website and David Walton confirmed this would be done if at all possible.

The Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.