**Bristol Bridge Club**

Registered Charity Number 1167959, Company Number CE007705

Grenville Hall, 99 Oldfield Road, Bristol BS8 4QQ, [www.bristolbridgeclub.co.uk](http://www.bristolbridgeclub.co.uk), tel. 0117 929 1846

Minutes Annual General Meeting 2023

6 July 2023

1. Members were welcomed to the meeting

We received apologies from 24 members, 14 postal votes were received and there were 4 proxy votes

1. Minutes of the meeting on 1st July 2022 were accepted unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting
2. There were no actions from the minutes

4.1 **Chairs address**

The club started the year slowly with the opening up from the pandemic. Numbers have steadily grown over the year. The club has lost money over the year, but we are moving back towards breaking even.

The Friendly Thursday sessions have proved popular and have encouraged people back into the club. However, these sessions were running at a loss. A decision was taken to start charging for the food at these sessions. Stuart wanted to thank staff, volunteers and members for supporting the club post-covid.

There has been a focus over the past year on teaching and learning and the social aspects of the club. Beginners lessons have been going well and we are working on routes into playing at the club for beginners to transition to competitive play.

4.2 **Treasurers report**

The minus figure in the accounts is the main point to draw members attention to. Government grants came to a halt post-covid. We had no idea what the appetite for a return to face-to-face play would be amongst members. We started Friendly Thursday to encourage members back into the club. We have used some Curtis Cup money to facilitate the offering whilst the food was free. We no longer use this fund for the Thursdays.

There was discussion amongst the members that were unhappy with the Curtis Cup fund being used for this purpose. The committee felt it had been appropriate as it was to encourage sociable bridge between members. The criticisms were taken on board.

There is a lot of detail in the accounts and members are free to talk to Mike about any aspects they would like to discuss. A member asked about the money that had been spent on improvements. It was explained that this money was to carry out a feasibility study for the proposed refurbishment.

Vote to reappoint independent examiner was passed unanimously.

4.3 **Membership report**

We now have 345 members. 24 more than last year. All tutorial attendees are now members. There has been a steady stream of new members recently.

5.1 **Election of Treasurer**

Mike Forrest was proposed by Mike Letts and seconded by Jo Luton and was elected unanimously.

5.2 **Election of Trustees**

Hilda Ball was proposed by Stuart King and seconded by Jude Archer and was elected unanimously.

No other members put themselves forward.

Ralph Power, Jo Galpin and Phil Seymour are standing down as trustees. They were thanked for their contribution.

5.3 **Renovation Committee Report**

The proposal was presented by Stuart King. The building has not been updated for many years and some areas are falling into disrepair. The entrance is not considered safe or welcoming, we would like to improve the sociability of club and provide more teaching. The committee feel that the proposed renovation will address all these areas. We commissioned a feasibility study to look at providing a level access, an increase in social area, improved flow around the building and easier access to the small hall.

There followed a discussion by members. Points raised included whether we would be improving the equipment in the kitchen as part of phase 1, which would happen. Some questioned whether this was the right time to start such a renovation considering that the club finances were not in good shape now. There was some discussion about the fact that the harbourside development is still going ahead and with the LEZ some people find it difficult to get to the club. It was pointed out that the committee had spent time looking for alternative accommodation but nothing suitable was available in our price range. It was questioned whether if the refurbishment went ahead would it be possible to rent the space out for other functions at weekends.

Following the discussion, members voted upon whether we should go out to tender for the proposed phase 1 of the work and once tenders were in the membership should be allowed another vote on whether the work should go ahead. This was proposed by Mike Huggins, seconded by Daisy Bickley. It was passed, with two voting against and 6 abstentions in the room and 5 against and 1 abstention by postal vote.

5.4 **Table money increase**

Table money has not increased for many years. The proposal is to raise it to £6 per session.

There was some discussion about whether the rise did need to be to £6 rather than £5, the committee had considered a smaller rise but in view of the fact that costs had risen so sharply recently it was felt that £6 was better.

Members voted in favour of the rise to £6, with 9 in the room against and 3 abstentions and 5 against in the postal votes.

5.5 **Bristol and Clifton Chess Club**

We have been approached by Bristol and Clifton Chess club to see whether we could host the club on Tuesday nights. They would be in the small room and bar area and it was considered that they would not cause much disruption to play on a Tuesday night in the main room.

Members voted in favour of the proposal with 1 against and 2 abstentions and 1 abstention in the postal vote.

5.6 **Proposal from Sue O’Hara, seconded by Sandra Cooper**

The proposal was for a separate section to take place on a Thursday night for more competitive players, so that they can play 24+ boards. It was proposed that this should be for a trial period, to see if it encourages more competitive players come to the session.

There followed a discussion about whether this would have a negative impact on the beginners who learn a lot from playing with more experienced players.

Members voted in favour of the trial. There were 38 for in the room and 13 postal votes for. There were 43 against and 4 abstentions.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.30pm