

Bristol Bridge Club (charity no. 1167959)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

5.30pm-7.45pm Thursday 2nd July 2020

Online meeting using Zoom

(The Club premises remain closed)

1. Apologies for absence

Christine Dean, Peter Dyke, Martin Holcombe, Nelson Stephens, Rosemary Stokoe, Chris White.

2. Trustees present

David Jones (Chair), Michael Forrest (Treasurer), Philip Seymour (Secretary), Hilda Ball, Caroline Drugan, Joanna Galpin, Jo Luton, Susan O'Hara, Ralph Power, Alison Simmonds

3. Members Present

Margaret Alner, Judy Archer, Jane Barrett, David Beacham, Eric Blencowe, Tony Blythe, Colin Bond, Mick Brown, Pat Chant, Sandra Cooper, Jeanette Cossey, John Councer, Catherine Davies, Jan Duncan, Joubert Ferreira, Barbara Fowler, Chris Griffith, Gordon Hodges, Sheila Hodges, Anne Huddleston, Stuart King, Marguerite Lihou, Angela Long, Josephine Mitchell, Brian Nichols, Neil Purchase, Bill Ray, Simon Rye, Faith Stinchcombe, Steve Tomlinson, Liz Tracy, Stephen Turner, Ray Westward, Michael Whitfield, Margaret Young.

About five other members were also present but their names were not shown or had difficulties and left early.

4. Minutes of the last meeting, Thursday 4th July 2019

Proposed as accepted by Hilda Ball, seconded by Joanna Galpin, and they were approved by the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the above minutes

Colin Bond queried the result of the Trustees' deliberations on the point he raised last year that Bridge should be free for members over the age of 85 who had been members for the previous five years.

Susan O'Hara and Philip Seymour responded that we did not hold the ages of the membership, so it was not possible for the Trustees to estimate the annual cost of such a proposal. It was also pointed out that some members were sensitive to the request for date of birth/age. The proposal had been made at the AGM last year, so it was discussed by the Trustees at their next meeting. In light of the above difficulties, they decided they would not proceed with the idea.

6. Chair's report – Appendix 1
7. Treasurer's report – Appendix 2
8. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial statements – Appendix 3
9. Election of Chair of the Board of Trustees

Ralph Power was proposed by Phil Seymour, seconded by Hilda Ball.

Ralph joined the Club in 2013 and he has been an enthusiastic member. He has played in many sessions, representing all levels of Club play. Consequently, he is well known throughout the Club and has good relations with players at all levels.

Behind the scenes, he has always been willing to help out with issues such as Tidy Up Days, Christmas decorating and any general tasks. Recently, he spent many an hour pressing a damp meter into various parts of the wall of the Clubhouse under the direction of the myself, all with good grace, humour, and incredible patience.

For the past two renewal periods, he has been in the role of Membership Secretary, organising renewal payments and maintaining the membership databases. Now I put Ralph forward for a broader role, overseeing the re-opening of the Club and welcoming back members old and new. Also driving forward an increase in Club membership.

Duly elected with 59 Votes

10. Election of Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Alison Simmonds was proposed by Caroline Drugan, seconded by Ralph Power.

Alison is a highly organised individual who is both thorough and efficient with an attention to detail. She has already demonstrated her commitment to the Club through the production of the Newsletter, sending the hand of the week emails, helping to develop the website and Facebook Club promotion. She also chairs the Club marketing sub-committee. Through her work as a Trustee over the past year she has developed a good working knowledge of the structure and function of the Club.

Alison was formerly a compliance officer at the Stock Exchange and through this role understands regulatory compliance and has already demonstrated a good grasp of the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Duly elected with 58 Votes

11. Election of Trustees

There were three vacancies on the Board of Trustees, and three members standing:

Judy Archer – Proposed by Hilda Ball, seconded by Sue O’Hara

Judy Archer joined the bridge Club over fifteen years ago. Judy is a retired teacher and a very good administrator....(and I might add a very good tennis player). She plays bridge regularly Monday and Friday evenings as well as Thursdays and Tuesdays. She has a very good nature and has a good rapport with many members of the Club. Despite not being on the Bridge committee, Judy has helped the Publicity Sub-committee and never hesitated when asked to help with the Christmas decoration and other tasks of the Club.

She would be prepared to give time and commitment to the Club and would take any role as required. She will be a valuable asset to the Trustees’ committee.

Stuart King – Proposed by Alison Simmonds, seconded by Caroline Drugan

Stuart has already contributed much to the Club as a teacher and director, and to bridge in Bristol generally through his pamphlets and by setting up a bridge club at the University. He came up with the idea for our Drop-In sessions on Wednesday evenings to promote relaxed and social play at the Club, and is hugely enthusiastic about developing and improving the Club with a range of proposals he intends to bring to the Committee.

Stuart's career involves designing solutions to technical problems, and project managing the work required to get it done. This sort of experience will be invaluable in helping the committee to drive forward the changes needed to address our gradual decline in membership and revenues.

His technical knowledge will also be incredibly helpful in updating bridge club systems.

Philip Seymour – Proposed by Hilda Ball, seconded by Jo Luton

Philip is a long-standing member of the Bristol Bridge Club, he has been Membership Secretary and Chairman of the Club before it was reformed as a Charitable organisation. He was also Health and Safety officer and has updated the H&S manual. He has been and still is the guardian of the fabric of the building and has been especially pivotal to many aspects of the Club.

He has been a Trustee of the Club for the last three years and for the last year has held the role of Club Secretary.

All three were duly elected: Judy Archer received 52 Votes, Stuart King Received 56 Votes, Philip Seymour received 60 votes.

12. Any proposals submitted by members

None received by the Secretary.

13. Any Other Business

Simon Rye put forward this proposal for consideration, apologising for missing the deadline date to formally submit a proposal to the AGM.

To establish a sub-committee to consider:

Replacing bidding boxes, cards and scorers with tablets. Members welcome to bring their own or rent (for an additional £1) a Club one which to be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each session. Refurbished 4th generation iPads can be purchased on eBay in bulk for under £100 whereas single examples can be bought in auction for around £75.00.

He perceived the advantages to be:

1. No more grubby cards, missing bid cards in bidding boxes, cards replaced in the wrong slots, boards played out of turn or with the wrong polarity, players playing out of turn, revoking, scores entered incorrectly
2. No reason why those physically absent members could not participate and play; there are many, especially women, who are reluctant to come out alone at night
3. Eliminate slow play by using the same time restrictions as already apply online
4. In cases where someone's partner fails to turn up or is running late, a substitute could be summoned online without the need for that person to trek to the Club
5. Through use of online substitutes, sit-out tables can be eliminated.

It was agreed the Trustees would review the proposal at their next meeting.

14. Date of next Annual General Meeting

This will be decided by the Trustees after the Club has re-opened.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.45pm.