

PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

1 Moorview Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth, PL4 7EB

Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

4th June 2020

Attendees: Meeting held via Zoom with 26 members in attendance.

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies received from Michael Easterbrook, Arthur Norman, Diane McGregor, Ailie Henry, Jim Dunn, Malcolm Jones, Richard Ayres and Christine Maunder

2. Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting 25th March 2019

2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 There were no matters arising from the 2019 AGM.

4. Chair's Report and Announcement of 2019/20 Cup Winners

4.1 The Chair presented the following report.

We are living through very strange and worrying times and the Corvid19 Pandemic has changed our everyday lives dramatically. Closing the Bridge Club at the beginning of March this year was I believe a sensible move and confirmed by the government delayed "lockdown" sometime later. Given the advice for the over 70's and people with underlying health issues to self-isolate it is likely to be some time before it is wise for live bridge to start again at Plymouth Bridge Club. That will be probably the most important decision the new committee will have to make.

I have been encouraged to see how many of you have continued to play on-line and even more so by the recent initiative to set up our own online bridge tournaments through Bridge Base Online. Thank you to Charles and Andy assisted by Allan and Alex who have taken on the organization of this. It is a good way of keeping the club together and provides a small income from the table money that will help us with our ongoing expenses during the closure.

Clearly the building still needs to be maintained and I am grateful to Clare who is still visiting every week and taking the opportunity to give areas a thorough clean in preparation for when we can reopen.

I have also been pleased to see how you have been keeping in touch with our isolated members who I am sure appreciate regular contact.

Up until March PBC continued to operate successfully and I thank all of you who contributed to the successful running of the club. It continues to be a strong team effort.

You only have to read the minutes of last year to see the large number of you who continue to contribute - the team led by Ali Blake dealing cards, Judy and Allan drawing up rotas for directing, scoring, and hosting, Ailie for organising Christmas party, John and Karen for organizing and running Tuesday afternoon bridge. And in the background Gill for overseeing our room lettings

Encouraging new members and providing Bridge Lessons has been a function of the club for many years and I thank Brigid and Ruth who teach at the club on a Thursday evening. On Monday mornings our team of Charles, Judy, Martin, Richard and, since before Christmas, Alex teach beginners and improvers. We are anxious to resume lessons once it is safe to do so.

Thank you to the members of the Committee, who all played important roles in leading the club this year. It has been a quiet year for building improvements and after much discussion we decided, for the time being, not to pursue the renovation of the attic flat. Thank you to our retiring committee member Linda Parry who served as secretary until she withdrew for personal reasons

I am delighted to see we have a strong line up of people willing to serve this coming year

I will let Charles report on the financial position of the club - but the key to our viability will be our ability to maintain and ideally grow our membership. The committee have decided to make no change to either the subscription or the table money this year but will keep this under review for future years.

You all know how attendance at afternoon bridge has remained strong during the year. Unfortunately as I reported last year evening numbers have continued to struggle. Ali and Andy have continued to work hard at maintaining Friday evening bridge and so far so good. An experiment to run a Wednesday afternoon session ran for some months but the lack of numbers meant those stopped early in the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to mark the passing of Pat Joseph who was a long standing member and previous Chair of the club - one of our Cornish members. Pat will be sorely missed.

So thank you again for joining this virtual AGM. I hope by this time next year we will be meeting

again at 1 Moor View Terrace.

Now normally I would have the pleasure of awarding the cups to the winners of this year's competitions. So let me congratulate all the winners and I will look forward to the day you can get your hands on the silverware when it is safe to do so.

The Competition winners 2019/20 were:

Mens Pairs	Malcolm Jones and Jim Dunn
Ladies pairs	Mary Chambers and Gloria Sommer
Mixed pairs	Richard Ayres and Jenny Young
Summer cup	Christine Maunder
Tudor Summer Cup	Richard Ayres
Winter Cup	David Atkins
Tudor Winter Cup	Bruce Foster
Rupert Shiner Salver	Linda Parry and Ann Preston
Joan Heffernan Cup	Joy Woosnam and Anne Ashley
Joan Till Cup	Diane McGregor and Allan Simpson
Spring Cup	Susan Gregory
Scholefield Cup	Gloria and John Lankshear
Individual Cup	Richard Ayres

Thank you to the competitions committee, Andy and Richard who have organized and run the competitions.

4.2 Nominations

The following nominations for the 2020/21 Committee were agreed:

Steve Lacey -	Chair
Charles Greenlees	Treasurer
Allan Simpson	Secretary
Richard Ayres	Committee
Gill Seymour	Committee
Martin Berkien	Committee
Robert Kilby	Committee
Diane McGregor	Committee
Mel Melville-Brown	Committee

Remember your committee are here to serve you - and we are willing and open to receive feedback and suggestions from you all. Keep safe until we meet again.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 The treasurer provided the following report.

As of the end of the year the club is still financially is in a healthy position.

Table money, Subs and Teaching remain on a par with 2018 though room rental has fallen around 20%. There remains £34,590 in our bank accounts which should be sufficient for most if not all eventualities.

We have spent considerably less on repairs this year, though we are mindful that we cannot rest on our laurels and so must be prepared to take further steps should the need arise.

I would like to thank all those who have done the thankless task of collecting the table money at bridge sessions in the afternoons and evenings with a special thanks as always to Suzanne for her stalwart work for the afternoon sessions.

I would like to thank Eileen for doing the accounts, which are not fully signed off yet. We are in discussions with HMRC as to whether we owe corporation tax on our commercial lettings. When we hear back we can get the accounts signed off.

We have been taking precautions during lockdown as our Chair said to raise some revenue as we do have monthly outgoings of around £400. We took the decision to continue to ask Clare, the club's best asset, to deep clean the clubhouse and visit regularly thus keeping our insurance valid. There are other outgoings for water rates, some power and the internet. I will of course be in touch with these suppliers to try to get these reduced as we hardly use them.

We also took the decision to have a Virtual online Plymouth Bridge Club when the option became available. The benefits we saw were that members could play competitive bridge together, thus keeping in contact with each other as a minimum via chat. There were costs of £120 for training from the EBU to do and a pro version of Zoom costing £144 p a was bought to enable further training to be carried out for a further 6 TD's. We have played 15 sessions up to the end of May which should bring over £500 in to club funds.

Going forwards we will be running 4 sessions a week with a minimum estimated revenue of £110 per week or £475 a month. We have invited players from local clubs in Devon and Cornwall for the evening sessions only which has helped to increase the numbers. The committee accept the first few sessions were far from perfect but we are improving all the time as everybody gets used to the vagaries of the internet and we urge as many club members as possible to continue to attend at least 1 or 2 sessions a week. Andy, Allan and I have invested a lot of time and effort in this and if players do not want substitutions from outside the club please can you step forward as hosts so that we use outsiders as little as possible.

6. Questions

6.1 Judy Ripley asked whether, with the club premises unoccupied, it was a building insurance requirement for the fire alarms to be tested weekly as this was a regular activity she did weekly with others as it takes 2 people. It was not known and as the system was due for its annual check the Treasurer agreed to find out.

Action 6.1 CG

Post Meeting Note:

It has been confirmed by the insurance company that there is no requirement to do a weekly fire alarm test if the building is unoccupied. The electricity must be kept on so that the alarm system is powered and ensure an annual test.

Action 6.1 Complete.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.

Allan Simpson