**Bristol Bridge Club**

**Minutes of 56th Annual Meeting**

**2nd July 2015**

The chairman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6.15pm. Following the initial publication of the Bristol Bridge Club Agenda no further proposals or requests for postal /proxy votes were received.

**Apologises:** Jan Duncan, Phil Seymour, Trevor Willers, Brian Nichols, Simon Croucher, Cathy Davies

**Present:** 45 members

1. **Minutes:** 3rd July 2014 AGM were read, approved signed and accepted - proposed by Gill Davies and seconded by Mike Letts

**b) Matters Arising:** A question was asked regarding thedefibrillator and whether there was trained person at each session? Sue O’Hara explained that the aim had been for at least one regular player from each session to be trained. Whilst it cannot be guaranteed they will be present, there was also number of medically qualified club members who would be able to use the defibrillator.

**c) Chairman’s Address:** Welcome to the 56th Bristol Bridge Club Annual General Meeting. The Chairman’s speech attempts to sum up in brief the achievements of the committee for the club in the last 12 months. The Club Secretary and the Treasurer will give further reports after me and you will then have the opportunity to ask questions after the three reports.

Following the extensive refurbishments in recent times this year has been a year of financial consolidation and not many general expenses are anticipated. However a considerable expenditure is expected in the future as the floor in the main hall is rotting and will need replacing. There have been problems with the heating and air conditioning systems and this would be an ideal opportunity to consider underfloor heating.

Focussing on the bridge it has been ‘an okay year’ for the club.

The Friday morning handicapped system is successful and the revised Monday and Wednesday handicapped League has now begun.

Graham Hartley and David Jones won the Helmore Slaver.

The club won their regional heat for the Garden Cities Trophy but it was felt did not present their best players for the final and the final result was 4th. I therefore propose that a ‘captain of bridge teams’ should be appointed to organise players.

Can we please take a few moments to quietly remember past members and absent friends?

Thank you, Mike Elliott

**d) Secretary’s Report:** The club continues to thrive. In the recent EBU magazine the club was once again the 5th busiest in the country based on the number of player session in the year to March 31st. Afternoon sessions are often popular and Mike Elliott has started a new session on a Tuesday morning. Numbers are low on a Tuesday morning and Mike would like to see more players supporting this. Attendance at Sociable Saturday has picked up again. This will resume again after a break in the summer.

The numbers in the classes are only just self-financing but we would like to attract more people. Most new recruits come from word of mouth recommendations, so we hope that you will persuade your friends to give it a try when classes start in the autumn. A leaflet will be available to give out to people who you think might be interested in joining the classes. Please take one to show your friends.

It takes a lot of work to keep a club like this running, most which is done by a small group of people who work very hard on your behalf. Please speak to me if you have some time to spare to help the club. Everyone could help in a small way by leaving their table tidy at the end of play. Take your mugs back to the kitchen and do not leave dregs in the bottom of your mug. Better still put your mug in the dishwasher. Glasses do not go to the kitchen but should be left on the worktop in front of the bar as they get washed in the bar.

There is no table money for the bridge after this AGM. The winners are awarded the Bernard Shannon Trophy. There will be draw for partners, mixing a strong player with a less confident player in accordance with Bernard Shannon’s wishes to mix up different sections of the club. The draw for partners will go up on the whiteboard. I want to get playing as soon as possible. So rather than say what conventions are allowed, the stronger player should just play what the less confident player is used to and not play any new convention that they have never played before.

Stephen Royal

**e) Treasurer’s Report:** This is my last Treasurer’s Report, so please be kind so that I can retire gracefully.

* The figures this year represent a good solid base to go forward and continue to improve the facilities at the Bristol Bridge Club.
* The income remains steady and expenditure has dropped despite an increase in overheads. In particular, maintenance has risen due to repairs to the heating and alarm systems. Council tax and water rates have also increased.
* All the loans have been repaid and with the overall credit balance we are in a position to carry out further improvements to the club and I’ m sure that your committee will again be working hard during the next few months to identify and plan according to priority what should be done.
* It is also good to report that the Bar has made a profit this year. The increase in prices in April last year and good housekeeping have contributed to this result.
* If there are any questions I will try to answer your query.

Judy Hall

Questions following reports:

1. Q. (Concerning the accounts) Do Stone & Partners provide a certificate for independent examination?

A. No but the club accounts do need to be independently examined.

2. Q. (Following increase in membership) What is the club’s policy for funding? Does funding come from membership or players?

A. The membership fee has not been increased for at 10 years and does not expect to be increased again in the near future. Table money was increased the year after EBU ‘Pay to Play’ was introduced.

Slight cash flow issues were created due to the early repayment of loans which were needed for previous works. However the Scottish Widows Investment Account is now building up and will generate revenue for future works.

Support from the floor, ‘ 25p per week increase is excellent value for a club with these amenities.’

3. Q. Should the Membership Secretary be a member of the committee?

A. Clive Bushby does a phenomenal job for the club but personally does not wish to be a member of the committee.

**Approval of Accounts** proposed by Hilda ball and seconded by Mike Forest.

**g) Election of Officers:** Proposed by Mike Letts and Seconded by Sue O’Hara - carried unanimously.

Particular thanks were given to:

…Judy Hall for 9 years of extremely hard work as Club Treasurer. The presentation of flowers has been postponed until after her holiday.

…Phil Seymour for his amazing work especially concerning the recent building works.

…Sue O’Hara for 4 years as Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

… All the committee

**h) Rule changes for BBC Annual General Meeting**

Change in Club rules concerning officers of the Club

3.(i) The officers of the Club shall be the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Change in Club rules concerning the role and duties of the membership Secretary.

New Rule 3.(vi)

The committee shall appoint the Membership Secretary to The Club who may attend committee meetings but is not obliged to do so and does so without a vote. The Membership Secretary shall process the membership administration and the annual membership renewals. Annually, at the beginning of May the Membership Secretary shall report on the state of the membership renewals to the Committee. The membership Secretary shall also report to the Committee at other times if there are changes of significance to the membership.

Deleting the second sentence of Rule 3.(v)

3.(v) The Secretary shall be appointed or replaced by the Committee on the terms and at such times as the Committee shall decide.

New Rule 3.(vii)

The Committee shall appoint the Health & Safety representative to The Club. The Health & Safety representative shall attend the Committee meeting and report as appropriate and shall be entitled to vote at the meetings.

The Health & Safety Representative shall

1. Follow the procedures as laid down in the Health & Safety Procedures manual.
2. Following changes by government, local authority or others submit written amendments for the Health & Safety Procedures for ratification by the Committee.
3. Do an annual review of the Club with the assistance of a Committee member appointed by Chairman to ensure The Club remains a safe environment for members, staff and visitors.
4. Keeps records and checks that the annual service calls by outside contractors are undertaken on time and that any faults detected are repaired forthwith or reported to the Committee via the Chairman.

Correction to remove Membership Secretary in Rule 5.(iii)d

5.(iii)d. The complaint should be raised in writing by the Club member including details of witnesses with the Secretary of The Club or in his absence with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and recorded in the ‘Incident Book’.

Correction Changing Secretary to Membership Secretary

7.(iii) If a member has not paid his/her annual subscription by 1st May the Membership Secretary shall inform the member that payment is overdue. If the subscription has not been paid by 1st June membership shall be deemed to have lapsed.  
Upon application for renewal a lapsed member will be required to pay the full annual subscription for the year in which application is made but will not be required to reapply for membership.  
Discretion shall be exercised by the Membership Secretary as to the manner of application of this rule, allowing for extenuating circumstances.

Changein Club rules for the award of Life Membership in the Bristol Bridge Club:

**Rule 8 ii** This rule is to be amended by inserting a new **sub section (i)** and renumbering subsequent sub sections.

**Sub Section (i)** Election of Life Members to the Club.

**Rule 8(iv) and 8(v)** shall be renumbered following insertion of new **sub section (iv).**

**Rule 8(iv)** Life Membership of the Club from 2015 onwards may be granted by the Club in recognition of extended and service above and beyond normal duties.    Nominations for current Club members to be proposed for Life Membership of the Club must be proposed and seconded by current Club members.   They must submit a written presentation justifying the award for consideration by  the Club Committee prior to the AGM.  The final date for submission shall be one week prior to the final committee meeting prior to the AGM.  The committee shall consider the nomination and have the right to reject a nomination before the AGM.

**Rule 8(v)** The Club committee may nominate a current Club member for Life Membership. A written presentation by the proposer and seconded from the committee shall be submitted to the committee in accordance with the timing in **rule 8(iv).** The committee may approve the nomination by a simple majority vote.

**Rule 8(vi)** The proposer (or seconder) of the nomination shall read the grounds for approval in accordance with their written submission at the AGM and a simple majority shall approve such nomination.

**Rule  8(vii**)  Life Membership confers on the member freedom from annual subscriptions but table money and other payments are still liable.

Change in Club rules concerning purchase of Alcohol

16.(ii) The Catering Manageress shall purchase liquor for The Club and be responsible to the Committee.

Change in Club rule 16.(iii)

This rule is to be deleted as it is a duplicate of the final paragraph of rule 6.(v)

Proposed by Sue O’Hara          Vice Chairperson

Seconded by                              Committee Member

1. Life membership – Majority acceptance with 1 abstention

2. Charitable Status – A discussion on the benefits of Charitable Status, as encouraged by the EBU ensued.

The motion proposed, ‘To give the committee permission to investigate and to actively seek Charitable Status.’ by Gill Davies and seconded by Oli Noel was accepted by the majority.

3. Membership Secretary – Unanimous acceptance.

4. Health & Safety Representative - Unanimous acceptance.

5. Purchase of Alcohol - Unanimous acceptance.

**AOB:** The Chairmanproposed that a Club Team Captain is appointedto pick the players for future events eg Garden Cities. Following a discussion highlighting the issues that a captain is needed for all Club Events and that currently there is a vacancy for a Tournament Secretary, it was agreed that this issue should be taken to committee for further discussion.

Mike Elliott thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm