

AVON CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on 04/05/2011 at Bristol Bridge Club

Those Present: Eric Page, Gillian Davies, Mike Short, Stuart King, Sue O'Hara, Larry Bennett, Steve Tomlinson, John Styles, Mungo Jackson, Cathy Smith, Margaret Alner, Margaret Harris, Gerry Gowling, Mary McKenzie, Bill Maddox

Apologies: Robert Glass, Andy Smith

The Chairman, Eric Page, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

1. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were deemed accurate and were accepted (proposed by Mike Short and seconded by Steve Tomlinson). There were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report (Eric Page)

- Pay-2-Play has been in operation for over a year now and has been adopted by the five clubs that contribute to the County's income.
- The County's balance sheet has remained in good order, although there has been an overspend of just over 1K for 2010-11.
- There have been some notable successes at the table this year which Mike Short will tell you about later.
- Any players not currently participating in the leagues are encouraged to enter a team or join forces to form one next season.
- Regretfully Mike Short is stepping down as Tournament Secretary. Mike had done a splendid job over the last four years. Happily, Robert Glass has agreed to join the committee as the new Tournament Secretary.
- A thank-you to Robert Glass for the work he does in keeping our website so informative and up-to-date, and to the rest of the committee for all the hard work they have put in over the last year.

3. Treasurer's Report (Mary McKenzie)

- The balance sheet for the year shows a loss of just over £1000. There are several reasons for this loss:
 - Less profit from the Avon/Wilts/EBU Green-Point event in March.
 - Success with the Tollemache Cup where our players qualified for the final.
 - Substantial increases in costs affecting our County events (room hire, bar costs, etc).
- On the plus side, we had a substantial saving in making our diary available on line (with a few hard copies for those who wanted one).

- This year saw the introduction of Pay-to-Play, rather than charging annual subscriptions. We calculated that 6p per player per game would maintain our subs income and as can be seen from the accounts, this has proved to be quite accurate.
- The subs shown actually cover just ten months, as the EBU take two months to credit our bank account. As the subs for February and March have not been received in our financial year, I took the decision to show just ten months (rather than showing two months subs as a creditor) - purely to keep the accounts easy for me! The Pay-to-Play income averages £140 per month, which would have reduced our loss to approx. £750.
- Entry fees for our competitions, whilst slightly down on last year, are still substantially more than in previous years, and this is in no small way due to Mike Short and Gill Davies widely publicising our events and cajoling everyone to play. As you all enjoy playing, please make it easier for them next year and sign up in time!

4. Tournament Secretary's Report (Mike Short)

- The 2010-11 season saw an initial entry in the leagues of 26 teams, but this dropped to 25 as the WILKINS team withdrew before playing a match. The spread across the leagues were League I (7), League II (6), League III (5) and Newcomers League (7).
- The introduction of the Newcomers League was a great success, and all those that took part enjoyed the experience that it offered.
- The entry for the Knockout was 16 teams and the first round losers formed an 8-team entry into the Knockout Plate.
- Avon's Tollemache team qualified for the final for the first time in a number of years, and performed respectfully in that event. It is hoped that that we can build on this improved performance for next season.
- Notable achievements by Avon players outside the County were as follows:-
 - In the EBU Shapiro Spring Fours Punchbowl (consolation event) Robert Covill, David Jones, Rob Lawy, Aidan Schofield & Trevor Ward were runners-up, missing out by just 1 VP!
 - In the Gold Cup, Mike Elliott, Tim Brierley, Paul Keightley & Peter Sampson are through to the last 32.
 - In the EBU NICKO, Robert Covill, Mike Huggins, Jeremy Rickard, Irene Robinson & Aidan Schofield are through to the last 16.
 - In the EBU Ranked Masters (Life Masters), Mike Letts & Andrew Urbanski came 4th in a field of 36.
 - Steve Tomlinson, Cathy Smith, Andy Smith & Christine King won the Midlands Cup in a strong field.

- The winners of the various County events were announced:-
 - League I - The SMITH team (Andy, Cathy & Ralph Smith, Steve Tomlinson)
 - League II - The EVANS team (Myles Ellison, Gareth Evans, Richard Farrer, Marc Lee, Bernard Mitchell & Damian Nicholls).
 - League III - The COOPER team (Mike Brady, Terry Butler, Sandra Cooper, Brian Etheridge & Sheila Hodges).
 - Newcomers League - The STYLES team (Barbara Bush, Barbara Freeman, Peter Freeman & John Styles).
 - Knockout - The SMITH team (Andy, Cathy & Ralph Smith, Steve Tomlinson).
 - Knockout Plate - Final yet to be played between GREEN & OLIVER.
 - Championship Teams - Alan Jones, David Jones, Andrew Urbanski & Trevor Ward.
 - Mens' Pairs - Andy & Ralph Smith.
 - Ladies' Pairs - June Forte and Julianne Holder.
 - Mixed Pairs - Andy and Cathy Smith.
- Margaret Harris reported that the Western League results were not as good as in previous years - possibly because Dorset hammered all teams in our first match! More people are needed to play and volunteers are assured of at least one game. Dates of matches are published on the website. We play Cornwall at home again!

5. Youth Officer's Report (Stuart King)

Stuart reported that he began in October - running the University Bridge Club.

- He is looking into a teaching qualification for himself and Mungo Jackson.
- The University Bridge Club are thinking of opening up the club to outsiders as there is difficulty in recruiting University students. They are entering a team in the league next season.
- Cathy Smith suggested advertising this through existing contacts in schools.

6. Election of Officers

The Chairman suggested en bloc re-election. Two vacancies will be coming up next year and people might wish to shadow these posts. The following people were elected to the committee for 2011-12:

Post	Name
Chairman	Eric Page
Vice-Chairman	Gill Davies
Treasurer	Mary McKenzie
Secretary	Sue O'Hara
Membership Secretary	Gerry Gowling
Tournament Secretary	Robert Glass
Publicity Officer	Gill Davies
Youth Officer	Stuart King
Chief Tournament Director	Larry Bennett
Western League Organiser	Margaret Harris
EBU Council Rep	Phil Green

7. Adoption of new ACBA Constitution & Disciplinary Procedures

- It was proposed that these should be adopted, having been on the ACBA website for a year. Proposed by Mike Short and seconded by Larry Bennett.
- Larry said that *Pay-2-Play* and the *Human Rights Act* had influenced the EBU. They had taken legal advice and written a new constitution.

8. Any Other Business

- **Publicising of winners.** Eric will liaise with Bristol BC about the positioning of new boards for the County winners.
- **Thank-you gifts.** Larry has bought wine for Robert Glass, David Jones and Mike Short as a token to acknowledge the work that they all do.
- **Slow play in league matches.** The committee will discuss this at the next meeting.
- **Presentation of trophies.** Mike Short presented the trophies to the winners of the County events for the 2010-11 season (to those who were present).

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the AGM and the meeting was closed.

APPENDIX A

BALANCE SHEET

TO 31 MARCH 2011

Income	2010/2011	2009/10	2008/09
Subs for year	1,443.44	1,491.00	1,431.00
Entry fees	1,750.00	1,914.00	1,455.00
Green Point	936.55	1,428.87	1,349.72
sale of trophy cabinet	85.00		
Interest on deposit moneys	3.59	6.24	96.99
			89.5
Total income	4,218.58	4,840.11	4,422.21
Expenditure:			
Officers EBU expenses	97.25	42.90	91.90
Competitions:			
EBU National events Entry fees	1,135.00	1,177.50	798.00
Nat'l event expenses	799.00	-	178.90
ACBA competition expenses	1,989.00	1,056.00	1,437.70
Prizes and engraving	538.24	588.64	114.50
Miscellaneous		122.00	19.88
Sundry costs	33.00	47.84	
Web page & Diaries	99.28	344.58	432.59
Unusual expenditure:	539.10	50.00	2,308.77
Total expenditure	5,229.87	3,429.46	5,382.24
Profit for year	- 1,011.29	1,410.65	(-960.03)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March			
current account	241.60	835.16	326.74
Cash	56.47	0.47	168.89
Deposit account	9,004.68	9,001.09	8,096.99
Add debtor: green point	936.55	1,428.87	1,349.72
less creditor	-	15.00	102.40
Total nett assets	10,239.30	11,250.59	9,839.94
represented by			
Net assets at start of year	11,250.59	9,839.94	11,011.10
			182.00
Profit for year	- 1,011.29	1,410.65	- 960.03
	10,239.30	11,250.59	£ 9,839.94