

# **Antrobus Bridge Club**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Held on 12th March 2025, 7.00pm at Antrobus Village Hall**

**Committee:** David Pearson (Chairman), Simon Barber (Secretary), Helena Wrench (Treasurer), Richard Clegg (Tournament Director), Linda Ince, Barbara French.

**Attendance:** 38 members (including committee).

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Val Davies, John Burke and Helen Wright.

### **2. Minutes of previous AGM (13<sup>th</sup> March 2024)**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been posted on the club's website. Ann Ankers proposed and Miriam Manners seconded acceptance of the minutes. This was agreed and there were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that the club had 52 members (last year 58), and it would be better to have 60+, so members were asked to encourage bridge-playing friends to join. The club had made a surplus of £154 in the year ended 31st January 2025 (last year £1,158), and had assets on the balance sheet of £4,224. The surplus was unlikely to be repeated as our costs are rising with inflation and subscription income is declining as numbers fall, but in view of the balance sheet assets the Treasurer proposed that annual subs (£15) and table money (£2, visitors £3) should be unchanged for the coming year. Members applauded this. The Treasurer thanked John Burke for auditing these accounts. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Malcolm Strange, seconded by Tony James, and carried unanimously.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported a successful year for the club though the slight decline in membership was a concern – please encourage your friends! The club's new handicap system (based on the Newcastle Bridge Club system) had operated throughout 2024 and after seeing its effect, it had been modified slightly for 2025.

### **5. Social Events**

The Chairman said that the format of social events had been changed for the Christmas party (eat before bridge, tables arranged for groups of six to eat) and this had proved popular so this format would be used for all socials this year. The Chairman hoped this would reverse the recent drop in attendance at socials. The summer social date had been changed from that announced previously, so the socials would now be 9 April, 6 August, 8 October and 17 December.

### **6. Tournament Director's Report**

The Tournament Director reported that average attendance on Wednesday evenings was down by one. Tuesday evenings online (joint with Warrington) usually attracted 3-5 tables. He reminded members that Tuesday evening was open to all without the need to join the club. Players should join the online session at 6.45 for a 7.00 start; finish was usually 9.30-

10.00pm. The TD also reminded members that Wednesday evenings started at 7.00 for 7.15 with finish time usually around 10.15pm.

Prizes were awarded as follows:- Weds Handicap Pairs: 1<sup>st</sup>, Richard Clegg & Tony James; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Janet Jagan & Steve Bentley. Weds Scratch Pairs: 1<sup>st</sup>, Peter & Rita Jordan; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Janet Jagan & Steve Bentley (not awarded; maximum one prize per person); 3rd, Helen Wright & John Burke. Slams (Tues and Weds): 1st, Maggie Pinfold.

## **7. Resolutions**

The Secretary said that the present constitution was rigid and had proved difficult to comply with in some respects. Rather than ignore it, he had included on the agenda two proposed changes and was asking members to agree these changes to keep it workable.

- Clause 6, “There shall be an AGM held on the 1st Wednesday of March each year”. The Secretary proposed to change this to say “...during March each year” to allow flexibility. Proposed by Simon Barber, seconded by Barbara French, passed by a large majority with no votes against.
- Clause 8, last sentence, “A member may not serve as Chairman for more than five consecutive years”. The Secretary proposed to delete this sentence because committee members were elected every year so there was no need for a term limit to remove any committee member, but this clause prevented re-election of a chairman who was willing to serve again and had the necessary support. Proposed by Simon Barber, seconded by Linda Ince, passed by a large majority with no votes against.

## **8. Election of officers and committee for 2025**

The Chairman said that all existing members of the committee had agreed to continue for 2025-6. He asked whether there were any other nominations for any of the posts; there were none. The re-election of committee members was proposed by Malcolm Strange, seconded by Tony James and agreed by the meeting.

## **9. Any other business**

There being no other business notified to the Secretary one week prior to the AGM, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.13pm and bridge play commenced.

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