

# Gloucestershire County Bridge Association

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held at Cheltenham Bridge Club on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017 at 1.30pm. The President (Jim Simons) was in the Chair and 40 other members attended

- 1 There was one apology for absence received
- 2 The minutes of the AGM held on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 were approved nem con with no corrections

### 3 **President's Report**

I'd like to start by expressing my thanks, and I hope yours, to all the people who have worked for the association over the year. Volunteer-run organisations don't run without the volunteers! Starting with the officers, David Simons as secretary, Val Constable as Treasurer, Paul Denning as Chief Tournament Director, and Anne Swannell as catering officer have done most of the heavy lifting. We have recently co-opted Patrick Shields as Vice-President and he has been doing work on strategy, and we shall be hearing from him shortly. Peter Waggett has taken it upon himself to collect the money most Mondays – he says he quite likes money!

As usual the Cheltenham Congress and the Green Point event in Ross-on-Wye were great successes attracting players from far afield as well as the local. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who worked so hard to run them. For the congress, that is David Simons, Val Constable, Anne Swannell, Ro Kaye, John Skjonnemand and Paul Clarke. For the Green Point Event, it is pretty much just Alan Wearmouth, and the Herefordshire people.

Looking at results outside the county, way back almost a year ago in June 2016, Wendy and Joe Angseesing and Ian and Val Constable won the Midland Counties Challenge Bowl ahead of teams from Worcestershire, Warwickshire Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

In the Midland Counties league, our major triumph was that our third team won the Markham Trophy. The first and second teams came second and fourth respectively in their divisions.

In the Llangollen Swiss Teams, Paul Denning and Patrick Shields were members of the team who came 3rd.

In the EBU Seniors Congress, Richard Chamberlain & Patrick Shields played in a team with Graham Sadie and came 3rd in the Swiss Teams.

In the SBU Autumn Congress, Patrick Shields (with Clive Owen) won the 2-session Pairs Qualifying round, and won the Teams Qualifying round and came second in the Team's Final.

Richard Butland's team reached the final of the EBU 2016 Seniors Knock Out.

Over the year we ran two events in support of local charities. The Everett Cup in November raised money for Mindsong, and the Cotswold Cup February raised nearly £900 for Sue Ryder.

Over the course of the year we and Oxfordshire ran the Wessex Youth Bridge weekend September and again in April. Young people, from complete beginners to experts, aged from 8 to 20 and coming from as far away as Manchester and the Isle of Wight had two fantastic weekends of bridge. Many thanks are due to Cheltenham Bridge Club for hosting the bridge, to Cheltenham Ladies College for providing

overnight accommodation, to the magnificent teachers and to the many other volunteers who made the weekends a success: Ro Kaye, Tony Hill, Anne Swannell, Patrick Shields, Peter Swales, Mark Rogers, Ashok Kwatra, John Skjonnemand and Jo Simons were all involved from the Gloucestershire end.

Looking around the county, Tewkesbury Bridge Club has just celebrated its 50th anniversary, and there is a nice story about that. In the early 1960's, Mary Wilkinson, who has recently been their president, and who is now 95, invited her widowed father, Mr H E Rose, to live with her, and one night he said to her "I think I'll toddle down to the Bridge Club tonight, and have a game". "But Dad", she said, "Sorry, but there isn't a bridge club in Tewkesbury". The old boy said "Well I'll jolly well start one!" He found a few friends, they started to play rubber bridge in a room in the Tudor House pub, and fairly soon afterwards a lady came along and introduced Duplicate Bridge. The club has gone from strength to strength ever since.

That story appeared in English Bridge, and for the last year we have been more consistent about submitting copy for English Bridge. Most of it only appears in the on-line version, so I'd like to know how many people read that. (Show of hands.)

On the other hand, it is sad to report that regular bridge sessions at the EdF Bridge Club (formerly CEGB) have ceased after 42 years. Most of the remaining members now play at other clubs in the county.

You may not have heard of the regional county working groups, and indeed the national county working group. These were set up by the EBU to encourage an information exchange between counties and the EBU and each other, and we are a member of the midlands county working group. There have been some small gains from sharing best practice, but many of the counties involved have come to believe that the structure isn't working as well as it might, and Patrick Shields, on our behalf, is working towards developing something better.

Finally, I'd like to mention the so-called Clubs League, which is a league played in people's homes over the season. I'd like to thank David Hauser, who has been organising this for some years, though he is now stepping down. If you are interested in raising a team, speak to me afterwards.

#### **4 Adoption of Accounts**

Prior to the presentation of accounts the President explained that there had been a slight delay in completing the audit but that he was satisfied that the accounts as presented would have only minor changes. The Treasurer presented the accounts highlighting that it was a year for another healthy surplus. There were no questions and the accounts were adopted nem con

5 Chris Coleman was reappointed the auditor nem con

6 The following Officers were appointed unopposed: Jim Simons (President), Patrick Shields (Vice President), David Simons ( Secretary), James Hastie ( Treasurer).

The following members were elected unopposed to serve on the Executive Committee; Paul Denning, Peter Waggett, Peter Swales, Anne Swannell, Richard Harris, Tony Hill

7 Patrick Shields talked about the issues he is reviewing as he starts to lead a review of strategy for the County

> Bridge comes as lessons and social bridge as well as competitive bridge. Are we happy that GCBA resources, which come primarily from the last of these, need to get spent on all of them? No disagreements.

> There are distinct populations we care about; in particular Youth Bridge which needs careful organisation and committed resources, and bridge for later learners, where daytime rather than just evening activity plays a big part. We need to develop distinct strategies for each of these. No disagreements.

> The GCBA is too Cheltenham-centric at the moment, and it must find ways of helping to develop bridge in all parts of the county. Centralised activity is accepted for top competitive players who are willing to travel, but it does not cater for social bridge and learners, for whom activity must be more local. No disagreements.

> In order for the GCBA to be useful, it needs to understand better what makes it difficult for clubs and teachers across the county achieve what they want to achieve. Guessing what the problems are is tricky - we need feedback from clubs and teachers.

8 The President again highlighted the financial surplus for the county and that he wanted the Executive Committee to look at ways in which this could be used to benefit clubs. There was general consensus that this was appropriate.

9 There was no other business

10 The President invited Peggy Phillips to present the trophies and prizes for the 2016-17 season

## 11 2016/17 Trophy Winners

Event	Names	Position
Steve Darke Trophy (C)	Derek Rue & Patrick Shields	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Summer Individual (C)	Ashok Kwatra & John Skjonnemand	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Summer Teams (C)	Tony Letts	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Geoffrey Paterson VL (C)	Martin McWilliam	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Mens Pairs (C)	Patrick Shields & Garry Watson	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Ladies Pairs (C)	Val Constable & Alison Pritchard	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Cotswold Cup (C)	Natalie Davenport, John Polhill, Paul Denning & John Atthey	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Bredon Vale	EDF Energy BC	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Mixed Pairs (C)	Maggie Eaton & Ben Britton	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Flitch (C)	Allan & Judy Sanis	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Everett Cup (C)	Anne Swannell & Peter Swales Penelope & Chris Healy	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Ace of Clubs (C)	Ken & Diana Vowles	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Leonard Cup (C)	Ruth Thomas & Caroline Bristol	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Winter Pairs (C)	Joe Angseesing & Keith Stanley	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Teams of eight	Cheltenham BC	1 <sup>st</sup> .
County Individual (C)	Mike Wignall	1 <sup>st</sup> .
County Pairs (C)	Roy Collard & Pam Pearce	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Rank Xerox (S)	Thribb BC	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Winter Teams (C)	Ian & Val Constable, Roy Collard, Patrick Phair & Steve Evans	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Swiss Teams (C)	Alan Wearmouth, Tony Hill, Mark Rogers & Peter Waggett	1 <sup>st</sup> .
League Division 1 (C)	Joe Angseesing, Richard Chamberlain, Richard Butland, Paul Denning & Garry Watson	1 <sup>st</sup> .
League Division 2 (C)	Jim Simons, Patrick Phair, Noel Downes, Nigel Edmondson, Richard Croote & Paul Smith	1 <sup>st</sup> .
County Knock-out (C)	Joe Angseesing, Richard Chamberlain, Paul Denning, Richard Butland & John Atthey	1 <sup>st</sup> .
Cleverley Cup (C)	Still awaiting result of final match	1 <sup>st</sup> .