

Antrobus Bridge Club

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on 13th March 2024

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Carol Bingham, Mike Cain, Mike Dennis, Peter Jordan and Rita Jordan.

2. Minutes of previous AGM (8th March 2023)

The minutes of the previous AGM had been displayed and also a copy had been placed on each table at the meeting. The minutes were accepted and there were no matters arising from them.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the club had 58 members (last year 59), slightly less than usual and we should aim for 60-64. She circulated the accounts for the year ended 31st January 2024, which showed assets on the balance sheet of £4070, after a surplus during the year of £1158. The surplus largely arose from a legacy of £1000 from Stan Norcott received during the year. This had enabled the club to pay for the magician who entertained us at the Xmas party. The Treasurer proposed that annual subs (£15) and table money (£1, visitors £2) should be unchanged for the coming year. She thanked John Burke for auditing these accounts and also thanked Miriam Manners for her many years of auditing previously. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Malcolm Strange, seconded by Helen Wright, and carried unanimously. The Treasurer reported that John Burke had agreed to act as auditor for the next year.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported a successful year for the club without Covid-19 interruptions at last. He said that playing bridge online on Tuesdays, which we started during Covid, was working well with most members able to participate, though fewer did than usually attended on Wednesdays. Playing online had led us to post notices (such as for the AGM) online and our WhatsApp group for messages and finding partners was working with over 30 members in that group. He thanked Ruth Bramwell who had stood down during the year after a long spell as the club's Secretary. Trisha Dumez proposing sending a bouquet to Ruth to thank her and this was agreed.

5. Election of officers and committee for 2023/2024

The Chairman said that all existing members of the committee had agreed to continue for 2023/24. This included Simon Barber who had offered to take over Ruth's role as Secretary, and Barbara French who had been co-opted during the year. The election of committee members was proposed by Tony James and seconded by Malcolm Strange and agreed by the meeting.

6. Social events for 2024

The chairman advised members of the proposed dates for four social events during 2024.

7. Tournament Director's Report

The Tournament Director reported another successful year though he thought we needed another six or more members attending (and no leavers!) to make Tuesday evenings operate better. He wanted to reinforce and remind members of last year's AGM decision to start at 7.00 for 7.15 and finish by 10.15. The finish time depends on the speed of play and this means the TD on the evening may not know the finish time until close to 10pm. Members are asked to support the TDs, who are all volunteers and whose decisions are final. He said that a training course for new TDs was being arranged and asked for volunteers. He also reported that a new handicap system had been devised (similar to that successfully used at Newcastle Bridge Club) which would be tried this year. Simon could explain this if asked (but nobody did).

Prizes for 2023 were awarded as follows:-

Handicap Pairs, 1st prize, Tony James and Liz Hatton. 2nd prize, Barbara French (partnering Tony James). 3rd prize, Helena Wrench and Pam Clegg.

Scratch Pairs, 1st prize, Peter and Rita Jordan. 2nd prize, Tony James and Liz Hatton (not awarded); 3rd prize, Barbara French and Tony James (not awarded); 4th prize, Helen Wright and John Burke.

The slam prize was awarded to Pam Clegg.

The committee had adopted a principle of not awarding more than one prize to one person.

8. Any other business

There being no other business notified to the committee prior to the AGM, the Chairman closed the meeting.
