**FINCHAMPSTEAD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 16th April 2023**

**Held online**

**Apologies for absence**

Irene Vest, Robin Harding, Bob Whitmarsh, David Hughes, Brian Henley, John and Sue Moor, David Gowing, Hazel Crowther, Sue Yeomans, Margaret Eddy, Kim Sedwick, Sarah Ward.

There were approximately 40 members signed in

**Minutes of 2023 AGM**

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved

**Chairman’s Report**

Welcome to our 2023 AGM. Thank you all for signing on.

The Committee tried to book the Finchampstead Hall for a Tuesday afternoon for the AGM, but were unsuccessful. An evening slot was available, but with the various road closures around Finchampstead, the Committee felt this was not a good idea.

1. Our Tuesday bridge on RealBridge is going very well with a number of new players. Thursday evenings have picked up with 5/ 6 tables. I can confirm Thursday evenings will remain free for the time being, with Tuesday's session fee to remain at £1. We have invited those new players who have joined us and played online for two months or more, to become full members of Finch.

​2. We have the **Bridge Weekend 2024** on the Agenda, but I'll cover it off now - It is on the 15,16,17 November at Hotel Miramar, Bournemouth. So far we have 32 attending *(Post AGM note – we now have 44 guests)*. The Committee agreed to invite other local Club members to keep our numbers up which at the end of the day keeps the cost down.

We are looking to do a **Charity Night**  for a local Charity. If you have a charity you wish to be considered, then please let one of the Committee know

The Committee agreed that the **Club competitions** (Best Improver, handicap pairs and Teams) could be reinstated and will be awarded from 2025. To be included in the competition, you must have played at least 10 times during the current year, although anyone can actually play on the night. We will not be using the trophies, which are being stored. If anyone wishes to acquire one of the trophies (they are all engraved with previous winners' names), please contact one of the Committee.

**Treasurers Report**

A copy of the Accounts had been circulated prior to the AGM. Ian explained that our Accounts are now very simple and this year we had accrued a small profit of £22.00, he therefore felt no reason to recommend any changes. Questions were invited  from the floor - there were none.

**Membership**

There will be no membership fee for the coming year and we have automatically continued membership for any existing member who has played either at the club in the last 12 months or attended the weekend away last year. We have had a few new members join during the year and our active membership now stands at 76.

**The FDBC Committee**

The current committee members are Gill Lloyd (Chair) Ian Adams (Treasurer) Lyn Barrow (Membership and on line banking) Ron Lloyd (Quartermaster & dealing machine)

The Committee are happy to stand again for 2024/5. There was no dissent from the members. The Chair reiterated that anyone wishing to join the committee would be very welcome.

**AOB**

***The question was raised as to whether FDBC will return to F2F.***

Whilst the Committee understands that there are members who wish to play F2F, the numbers are small. The Committee is not ignoring these members, but has no option other than to go with the majority and play online (as shown by two referendums).

It was agreed that a Summer Party could be held. (Post meeting note: date for the party is 23rd August 2024.

***The question was raised as to what is to be done with the Club’s funds.***

The majority of the Club’s funds were donated by Colin Harris to be used for the sole purpose of playing and promoting bridge. The Committee have had many discussions on what would be the best sensible way to use these funds. The Committee would welcome any workable, achievable suggestions.

***The question was raised as to how ‘slow play’ can be minimised***

We ask that players are aware of the clock! You are not only holding up the pair you are playing with, there are also players waiting to start the next round. We do enforce procedural penalties whereby a board will be taken away if play is slow.