

# Minutes

## Hearts of Sussex Online Bridge Club AGM 2022

*Meeting held 15 November 2022 & 6.30 pm at Age Concern, Hassocks*

Attended by: Tony Chaitow (Website Mgr), Peter Knight (Chair), Gwen Knight, Vincent L'Estrange, Sue Cottrell, Len North (Treasurer), Lynda McBeth, Richard Begley, Martin Wheatley, Sue Finch, Sue Ponsford, Sally Mead, Ann Brooks, Chris Hook, Mo Etherington, Claire Coghlin, Lesley Minster, Adrian Alexander, Brian Drabble (Secretary), Liz McConachie (Membership Secretary), Brian Bowen, Ruth Brown, David Brown, Marilyn Renwick, Barbara Hepher, Roger Brindley, Liz Brindley.

### **1. Welcome by Chairperson**

Peter welcomed everyone to the second AGM of the Hearts of Sussex Bridge Club.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Jeanette Grant, Roger Hartless, Mary Teviot, Larry Tweedie, Margaret Drake, Chris Ames, Ian Macgregor.

**3. Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM** held 19 October 2021 were accepted, proposed by Vincent L'Estrange, seconded by Gwen Knight.

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

Peter thanked all the committee members for their input throughout the last year as well as the membership for continued support.

Attendances have varied at times, Brian will provide you statistics later, and we were concerned at one point about falling numbers.

Our Children in Need events were very successful. Peter thanked everybody for the donations which totalled £430. The club has topped this up to a final total of £475.

Peter hopes the Club will continue to prosper for many more years.

### **5. Secretary's Report**

Brian reported 97 registered members against 92 last year. 77 members on BBO (76 last year) and a drop playing face to face from 54 last year to 40 this year. This calendar year 77 members have played at least once (86 last year).

Brian thanked Peter Knight and Vincent L'Estrange for regularly Directing on Tuesdays, also Chris Hook for covering Mondays whenever needed.

Thanks also went to Liz McConachie for her efforts as membership secretary and Tony Chaitow for organising Thursday casual games and helping to run the website.

Thursday evening Casual Bridge continues to provide a platform for those wishing to play online but prefer an informal evenings play, or like to play with the Club more than once a week but are unable to attend in person on a Tuesday evening.

Numbers continue to be low, and all Members are very welcome to join in even on the odd evening if not on a regular basis.

The website is well used - we have had 66,000 hits on our webpages this year.

Some people seem to have difficulty using the find a partner facility: we shall be publishing a paper copy of face to face members contact details in an attempt to make life easier to find a partner.

The club is running well but we would welcome a few more players to any of our games: we have averaged 5 tables on Mondays and 6 tables on Tuesday over the past 6 months.

The shortage of Directors is a little worrying and Brian asked everybody to consider whether they could offer to Direct perhaps once a month.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Len reported the finances of Hearts of Sussex to be in good shape. Compared with last year there has been a reduction in on-line income, but more than made up by face to face income.

The Club has moved to table money payment using vouchers, at the request of many members. This has improved the efficiency of collecting table money. In addition it has reduced the requirement for the weekly banking of table money. Len passed thanks to Liz McConachie for the collection of table money and vouchers, and the subsequent payment of monies into the bank.

The increased income this year has allowed the capital expenditure of a laptop, router and a few handsets for the introduction of digital scoring. Some hand held devices have been kindly donated by members.

Collectively the members of our Club have made a contribution to charities.

Going forward our surplus (or deficit) for the 2022/23 will depend on:

1. The number of members playing each week at ACH.
2. The number of members playing on-line and the £ to \$ Exchange rate affecting our monthly commission.
3. Any inflation cost relating to our expenditure.

Len feels confident our Club is on a sound financial footing, as we continue to have a good number of members playing on Monday & Tuesday, and we have a good reserve in the bank.

The accounts were accepted: proposed by Sue Cottrell, seconded by Adrian Alexander and universally approved.

## **7. Constitution change**

*a. The term "Auditor" to be replaced by "Account examiner"*

Universally agreed.

## **8. Election of Committee for 2022/23**

*e. Chairman*

*f. Secretary*

*g. Treasurer*

*h. Co-opt Membership Secretary*

*i. Co-opt Website Manager*

The three officers (Peter Knight, Len North, Brian Drabble) were elected unopposed as were the two co-opted (Liz McConachie, Tony Chaitow) as membership secretary and website manager.

## **9. Elect Account examiner for coming year**

Vincent L'Estrange was willing to undertake this again and was universally approved.

## **10. Any Other Business**

There was none.

## **11. Closure**

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.