

Minutes

Hearts of Sussex Online Bridge Club AGM 2023

Meeting held 14 November 2023 & 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, Ann Brooks, Marilyn Renwick, Chris Hook, Mo Etherington, Claire Coghlin, Lesley Minster, Adrian Alexander, Brian Drabble (Secretary), Brian Bowen, Roger Hartless, Margaret Drake, Anmie Edie, Jenny Morgan, Ken Morgan, Stella Jenner

1. Welcome by Chairperson

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Mary Teviot, Chris Ames, Sally Mead, Roger Brindley, Liz Brindley, Enid Scott.

3. Minutes of the 2nd AGM

Held 15 November October 2022 were accepted: proposed by Adrian Alexander, seconded by Sue Cottrell and universally approved.

4. Chairman's Report

Peter thought we have had a reasonably successful year although numbers have been down on a few occasions.

He then thanked our committee members for all their diligent work in running our club. Brian for all the emails and notices and Monday evening directing. Len for keeping the finances in order and Tony for assisting with the technical issues. Not forgetting Liz who managed the membership records and helped with the banking. We hope to see her back at the tables as soon as possible.

Peter also gave thanks to all the directors on Tuesdays and of course to all players for their continued support.

5. Secretary's Report

Brian reported 88 registered members against 97 last year. 76 members on BBO (77 last year) and an increase playing face to face from 40 last year to 49 this year. This calendar year 70 members have played at least once (77 last year).

Brian thanked Peter, Vincent and Margaret for regularly directing on Tuesdays, also for Chris and Larry for covering Mondays whenever he's not been able to Direct on BBO.

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

Margaret will not be able to Direct until April and Brian asked everybody to consider whether they could help Direct. There would be plenty of help available for any new Director.

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 and more people are utilising the find a partner facility.

We held two social events during the year: Christmas party and the away Day at Mid Sx golf club.

This year we ran two charitable events raising £500 for the Syrian/Turkish earthquake appeal and £370 for CiN

This brings our total charitable donations to £3,640 since HoSBC have been running.

6. Treasurer's Report

Len reported that our finances are in good shape.

Compared with last year there has been a reduction in on-line income, and face to face income, however we are still a financially viable Club.

The move to table payment using vouchers has worked well. In addition it has reduced the requirement for the weekly banking of table money. Thanks to Liz McConachie for the collection of table money and vouchers, and the subsequent payment of monies into the bank.

Thanks also to Vincent for Validating the accounts.

We have no plans for further capital expenditure, although we do need to be aware that some of our digital scoring devices (old mobiles) may need replacing. Your old mobiles would be welcome.

We have also held our 1st Bridge away day, which was financially supported.

Going forward our surplus (or deficit) for the 2023/24 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.

I feel confident that our Club is on a sound financial footing, as we continue to have sufficient numbers playing on Monday & Tuesday, together with a good reserve in the bank.

The accounts were adopted without comment.

7. 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 unanimously elected unopposed. Lynda Mcbeth has agreed to be the new membership secretary and both Lynda and Tony Chaitow (website manager) were co-opted.

8. Elect Account examiner for coming year

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

9. Any Other Business

A request was made that sit outs should be alternated between N/S and E/W to avoid the same people always sitting out.

There were suggestions that the online table money and/or face to face table money could be increased as well as annual membership fee if more funds were needed.

There was a quick discussion about whether affiliating to EBU would help with membership numbers.

10. Closure

The meeting closed at 6.46pm.