

THE KENILWORTH BRIDGE CLUB LTD

Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting Held at 7 p.m. on 4th August, 2023 at Kenilworth Bridge Club

Present : Jane Mackenzie (Chair), Val Ross-Gilbertson (Vice Chair), Bernard Rogers (Treasurer), Jenny Saunders (Secretary), Martin Cosh and Committee Members – Ron Pritchard, Lis Antrobus, Bob Tyler and Kris Pears plus 56 Members.

Chair's Welcome – Jane declared the meeting open at 7 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the 51st AGM.

Apologies for absence – apologies had been received from 38 Members.

Minutes of the 50th AGM held on 29th July 2022- Proposer David Paxton, Seconder David Heron.

Accepted unanimously and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising – none.

Chair's Address

Jane spoke to the meeting as follows :-

'Your committee has continued to work hard throughout the year to promote KBC as a welcoming and sociable club. May saw the highest monthly attendance since the pandemic.

I am sad to report that several members have passed away in the last year. Phil Heelis, Michael Perry, Diane Kinch, Carol Mallorie, George Hayward and Joy Fowles. These have been reported to us but there may be others. We will miss their familiar faces around the bridge tables.

To ensure the future of KBC we have focussed on teaching and recruiting new members. Nicky Bainbridge started a very successful beginners' course and we will be running a supervised play session for them on Wednesday mornings in the autumn when their course concludes. Do look out for new faces and welcome them when they venture into regular sessions.

A new beginners' course is planned for Wednesday evenings commencing in January 2024. Please encourage your friends and relatives to come along. Most of our new members come from word of mouth recommendation. Bridge is officially a "mind sport" and the benefits of staying mentally and socially active are now widely acknowledged. Our Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions include a sociable tea/coffee break in which to make new friends.

The expansion of online bridge makes it increasingly challenging for traditional face to face clubs. Many smaller clubs have closed.

In October, we welcomed Andrew Robson who presented two informative sessions in his inimitably entertaining manner. In March, Brian Osmond gave a successful one day seminar which included lunch.

We continue to run our two popular BBO sessions on Monday and Thursday evenings. If you haven't played with us online I would encourage you to have a go. It is useful when illness or holidays mean you cannot play in club. Do ask if you need help to get started. We have started to introduce some trophy competitions. We ran three in the Autumn and will be awarding the trophies at the AGM. We continue to run the gentle KBC online pairs league in the autumn and spring and our thanks to Heather Harvey and Tony Hudson for managing this. We have also started a Cumulative Pairs' competition for all our sessions. The current season runs from 3 July to 30 September. The winners are those with the highest average of the best 6 scores with the same partner. We also held some fun competitions to celebrate the jubilee and the coronation.

Mary Wood stood down from the Committee. She made a huge contribution to KBC, particularly through the covid period and our return to playing in club. She masterminded several online and in club seminars. Jeremy Roche also stands down. He ably assisted in the Articles revision project last year. We wish them both well.

We welcome Bob Tyler who was co opted to the committee this year. Val Ross-Gilbertson has stepped up to be Vice Chair and will take the reins at the 2024 AGM.

KBC prospers due to a huge team effort and I thank all of those who played a part.'

Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts – these had been circulated to all members in advance.

The Treasurer, Bernard Rogers, had reported about the accounts as follows :-

'As can be seen from the accounts sent out previously, the financial position of the club is very similar to that of the previous year. The club has made a small loss but this is not really of concern since it is mostly down to the depreciation charge on the building. These accounts mostly reflect the first full year since covid and we did receive a final grant of just over £2500 but there is no more to come.

Our costs continue to rise due to inflation and there is a rent review from our landlords due shortly. So I think it is prudent to propose a modest increase in fees. I would suggest that Table Money for members be increased to £4 per session with effect from 1st September, 2023. All other fees including annual membership, guest fees etc will remain as they are. Table Money is our largest source of income so this alone should help keep us on an even keel financially.

As members will be aware, the membership subscription expires on 31st August each year. We are arranging for renewal notices to be sent out within the next few days and it would be appreciated if members could ensure that they have sufficient funds in their accounts by that date to cover the £20 annual fee.'

Bernard asked if there were any questions from members :-

M. Sallis – what are the current payments to our TDs ? In Club - £5.50. BBO Thursday – 2 people at £10 each. BBO – Monday – external TD £40.

P. Smith – what rent increase do we expect from our landlords – 25% (as written in our lease).

K. Pears – does KCC have a new Treasurer yet ? No, which is why we have not had a utilities bill for nearly 2 years.

S. Garrett- what is the definition of a session – any one of our group duplicate competitions – e.g. Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon.

Adoption of Accounts – proposed by C. Shipp, seconded by N. Hoten, carried unanimously.

Resolutions from Members - none.

Ordinary (Committee) Resolutions

- 1. Increase Table Money at F2F in club sessions to £4 from 1st September, 2023 – carried with 2 votes against**
- 2. To elect Jane Mackenzie as Chair - carried unanimously**
- 3. To elect Val Ross-Gilbertson as Vice Chair – carried unanimously**
- 4. To elect Ron Pritchard as Committee Member – carried unanimously**
- 5. To elect Bob Tyler as Committee Member – carried unanimously**
- 6. 6. To appoint David Paxton as Independent Examiner – carried unanimously**

Trophy Presentation

Trophies were presented to Valerie and David Ivens, winners of the Wednesday Afternoon Competition.

Any Other Business

M. Sallis urged the Committee to consider returning to playing online sessions on RealBridge rather than on BBO. He stated that R/B is improving all the time, is recommended and much used by the EBU, is much cheaper than BBO and has better connections than BBO. He said that it would not be necessary to increase Table Money if we switched to R/B.

In reply, Jane explained that we had tried R/B but had to discontinue as there was so little support for it from members. She also pointed out that the increase in Table Money was to cover rising running costs within the club, not to cover BBO costs.

Shireen of R/B has been in touch with us recently and we may in future try to run new sessions with them. It will always be kept under consideration. The Committee strives to provide members with what they want but at the moment there is no indication that they want to go back to R/B.

P. Smith asked whether the members could be asked to vote on this issue – Jane explained that before we could hold a vote, we would have to prepare a full explanatory report for them to consider.

P. Smith said that it was an excellent idea, recently introduced, that the TD at any session announced the winners of the previous week's session.

Chair's Special Award

Jane presented a gift to Martin Cosh as thanks for all that he has done / continues to do for the club. She said :-

'He knows everything about KBC systems and all our members, he repeatedly rescues complicated situations, he is not stressed or angry, he fills in at the drop of a hat, he has made my life much easier. Thank youmagic Martin'.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7. 30 pm.