

North Devon Section AGM July 3, 2024 at 6.30pm, Braunton Bridge Club

Meeting opened at 6.35pm

1. Attendees

Officers & committee members: Neil Marsden (NM), chair; Stephen Rafferty (SR), Treasurer, Jacqui Munns (JM), secretary; committee members John Wintle (JW), Richard Watkins (RW).

Members: Alan Cooke, Alan White, Andrew Craddock, Ann Symons, Brenda Martin (BM), Carol Ritzen, Catherine Davey (CD), Dena Sells, Hilary Adams, Julie Rotchell (JR), Kate Ross, Linda Rafferty, Marion Smoldon, Nic Long, Paul Hide, Penny Gowland, Peter Clough, Richard McLaughlin, Roger Gowland (RG), Sue Hunt.

Apologies Liz Martin, Barbara Rennie

2. Minutes of the last AGM dated June 21, 2023

These were agreed to be accurate with no matters arising, and CD proposed they were accepted, seconded by BM, and agreed by all.

3. Chair's Report (NM)

Our small committee has had a difficult year trying to support local competitive bridge in a changing, wider world. Our regular meetings have helped us organise five events, as in previous years, the largest of which was the North Devon Congress (NDC), with 23 tables for both the pairs and the teams. Thanks to Jeremy Child for directing and Carolyn & Jacqui for faultless organisation.

Two events were held at Filleigh Village Hall, the matched pairs had 16 tables, generating another large surplus for North Devon Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support. Similarly, in February, 16 teams competed for the Dartington Trophy. Congratulations to Stephen Rafferty's mostly North Devon team.

Friday online sessions, organised and directed by Jacqui, have, again, been enjoyed by participants and covered their costs. Finally, Brent ran another instructive teaching seminar in Barnstaple Library, Sadly, the EBU-affiliated clubs have not prospered. Taw Vale and Braunton attendances have been static and Barnstaple has had to cease meeting as it can no longer cover its costs.

The committee has decided to try to attract new players by running a Beginners Bridge Course this autumn / winter. Thanks to Sally for a thought-provoking Teach the Teachers session. If any player has a friend or acquaintance interested in lessons, please persuade them to sign up for the weekly morning sessions starting on Tuesday 1st October in the Committee Room of Roundswell Community Centre.

Other parts of Devon have faced similar challenges, and this may lead to some reordering of how competitive bridge is organised in the next year or two. However, players in North Devon can be assured that all the current Section Committee members will work hard to try to sustain our much-loved game and, on your behalf, I thank them all. Neil Marsden

4. Treasurer's Report

SR was delayed, so JM briefly presented the accounts as shown below. Caen Club gave us their surplus of almost £600 when the club closed with the request that we use the money for the promotion of Bridge in North Devon. Some has been used to pay for Pat Bunch to join us on the Teach the Teacher Course, and the rest is available to support the course for beginners starting in October.

Overall, there has been a small surplus for this year and, including the two NDC accounts, the NDS holds a total of just over £9,000, which is a considerable amount of money.

RG asked if some of the money could be used to sort out computer issues and was assured that this was in hand. The Barnstaple/Taw Vale computer will soon be updated. The Braunton computer issues seem to relate to software rather than hardware, and there are plans for a meeting in the next few weeks to identify a solution.

5. Secretary's Report

For the coming year, our focus must be on increasing player numbers in North Devon, but this will take time and effort. Now we have organised lessons in October, we must find people who want to attend them. In May, we had a stall at Rosemoor's Hobby Weekend in May, getting people playing MiniBridge

and took the names of about 18 interested people. On Saturday, July 13, between 10am & 1pm, we will do something similar in the foyer of the Barnstaple Library, all are invited to come and help.

The EBU's week-long Festival in September called 'Bridge - It's a Big Deal' is an initiative to promote Bridge, have fun, and raise money for Cancer Research (CR) UK. As part of this event, Braunton will have an open house on their usual evening and everyone present was encouraged to attend and to bring any friends and family members who might like to learn about the game. While it will not be a normal night of competitive Bridge, everyone is urged to play their part in helping to secure the future of the game in North Devon.

Don't forget, the Bridge players of the future are also the Bridge committee members of the future and I for one am looking forward to taking off a few of my Bridge hats at some point in the future.

6. Election of Officers

Nominees – Chair – Neil Marsden

proposed by Jacqui Munns, seconded by Stephen Rafferty

Secretary – Jacqui Munns

proposed by Carol Ritzen, seconded by Richard Watkins

Treasurer – Stephen Rafferty

proposed by Neil Marsden, seconded by Jacqui Munns

All were elected with unanimous support from those present.

7. Election of Committee Members

John Wintle

Richard Watkins

The constitution does not require a vote to re-elect committee members.

8. Election of Scrutineer

In her absence, Marjorie Higgins was thanked for her work as scrutineer of the NDS and NDC accounts this year and it is hoped that she will continue in this role next year.

9. Any Other Business

JR mentioned that a MiniBridge event run by Sally Anoyrkatis at Saunton Sands Golf Club attracted a group of ladies who were interested in learning to play. JM said that she was aware of this group and would follow it up.

Meeting Closed at 18:54.

SEE BELOW FOR THE NORTH DEVON SECTION ACCOUNTS

North Devon Section Accounts for the year to 30th April 2024

North Section (DBA)						
<u>Accounts 2023/24</u>						
INCOME				EXPENDITURE		
	2023	2024			2023	2024
On Line	1544.00	622.00		On line costs	1462.37	339.65
Dartington (x2)	0.00	1844.17		Dart costs	0.00	976.72
Filleigh	1428.00	1164.00		Filleigh costs	511.36	547.79
Seminars (x2)	650.00	390.00		Seminar costs	1355.02	418.45
Caen BC		575.78		Training cost		220.00
				EBU net		474.61
				Miscellaneous	232.49	133.72
				Macmillan	200.00	225.00
				ND Hospice	673.00	1135.00
					4434.24	4470.94
				Surplus	-812.24	125.01
Total	3622.00	4595.95			3622.00	4595.95
Balance Sheet						
Assets				Capital		
				Balance b/f		995.01
				surplus		125.01
current account	995.01	1120.02		Balance c/f		1120.02

I have scrutinised the records & accounts for 2023/24. In my opinion they provide a true and fair view of its asset at 30/4/24. M. Higgins

North Devon Accounts Summary at 30th April 2024	
NDS Current Account	£1,120.02
ND Congress Total held	£8,092.89
Total	£9,212.91