

Warrington Bridge Club

Minutes of 44th AGM, held on 11 September 2021, 1030am, on Zoom

Present:

Jim Steele (Chairman)
Mike Dennis (Secretary)
Helen Wright (Treasurer, standing down, but remaining on Committee)
Janet Jagan (new Treasurer)
David Burrows (Committee member)
Angie Pinnington (Committee member)
Malcolm Roberts (co-opted Committee member)

and 13 club members.

1 **Apologies** were received from:

Janine Curwell, Trisha Dumez, Patricia Forsyth, Elsie Goodwin, Peter Harrison, Audrey Hibbert, Uschi Lynas, Tim Martland, Malcolm Strange, and Judith Sutton.

2 **Minutes of last AGM**, held on 17th February 2020

The minutes had been posted on the Club website just after the last meeting. They were accepted as read, proposed by Carol Bingham and seconded by Helen Wright.

3 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.

4. **Revised Club Constitution**

A revised Constitution was revised by ballot of members in June 2020. The revision was prompted by the need to be able to operate in a lockdown situation as well as in normal circumstances. The revised constitution, unanimously approved by members, is available on the Club website. There were no further comments or issues.

5 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's report has been posted on the website as part of the documentation for the AGM. He made some related additional comments:

He expressed thanks to the Committee for their support and sterling work throughout the lockdown period, with particular mention of Helen Wright, for her work as Treasurer, and Janet Jagan, who has agreed to take on the role. He also thanked Geoff Fisher for his work in auditing the Club accounts over many years, but who is now standing down as auditor.

He gave an update on the membership situation, which is now looking very healthy, with significant growth since the previous AGM.

He updated the meeting on our new venue, Alford Hall, which we have now already used once, last Thursday, with the first teaching class; the venue proved very suitable. We are now resuming weekly F2F Club sessions on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons, all at our new venue of Alford Hall.

Jim made an appeal for help with running club sessions: we need to train more TD's, so any volunteers will be very welcome. He advised that any new TD's would not be dropped in at the deep end, but would be supported until they became comfortable in the role. Also there is a need for some addition helpers at our Thursday morning teaching class.

6 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

The audited Income and Expenditure Account for 2020 had been posted on the website and available to members to scrutinize.

Some explanatory comments were offered by Mike and Jim, in particular because in 2020, the first part of the year, pre-lockdown, was "normal" operations, and the rest of the year had involved running the Club in a very different way, with on-line bridge in a consortium of three Clubs- Brierfield, Warrington, and Stretford.(BWS). The costs of running BWS sessions are initially borne by Stretford, with periodic reimbursement by Brierfield and Warrington for our share of these costs.

7 Appointment of Auditor

The chairman thanked Geoff Fisher for carrying out this role for many years. As Geoff was now standing down, a new auditor was required, with appropriate qualifications and experience. Fortunately we have identified a suitable volunteer, Mr Brian Drinkwater, who has been recommended by the Chairman to the Management Committee.

The meeting was asked to endorse the appointment. This was proposed by Hilary Wood, seconded by Malcolm Roberts, and approved unanimously.

8 Setting of the annual subscription and visitors fees

No change proposed. The annual WBC subscription for Full members will remain at £15.

The chairman clarified the new category of "New Player Membership" for people learning the game, which is expected to be a stepping stone to full membership (after one to two years, or as soon as the individual was ready to take part in full Club sessions); the annual subscription for New Player members is £5.

Visitors fees: for on-line bridge we have charged £5 per session per person for on-line bridge, and this has worked well. We propose no change in that arrangement. However, now that we are restarting face to face bridge, we will reinstate our previous system of allowing up to three free F2F sessions for visitors, after which they will be expected to join.

The new venue is a registered social club with its own rules, requiring regular users to become members of Alford Hall in their own right. The Committee has already agreed that the WBC will absorb this small cost for the short period of 2021 remaining. It was suggested that for 2022 onwards, WBC adds the required annual fee to each WBC member's annual subscription, and pays Alford Hall en bloc at the appropriate time. The secretary will need to keep a membership record to facilitate this exercise. It was noted that Alford Hall operates a differential annual membership fee by age: £8/yr for under 65's, £4/yr for 65-80, and free for over 80's. We do not keep records of members' dates of birth, so it will be up to the member to declare how much they are paying for Alford Hall membership, when they pay their Club bill in early January.

Session charges: the proposed session charges will remain unchanged at £3 per session, applicable to members and their guests. This will be the same for on-line and face to face sessions. The exception is the Thursday morning teaching class, where the fee is £2 per person.

9 Method of collection of subscriptions and playing fees

The cashless system, of billing members 2-monthly in arrears, has worked very well through the lockdown, and will be continued now the Club will be operating both on-line and face-to-face bridge. The Treasurer issues members every 2 months with a bill, by email, based on our records of each member's sessions played, with a request to pay into the Club account by bank transfer. The bill sent out in early January includes the playing fees for November and December, plus the annual subscription for the coming calendar year.

10 Election of Committee and Officers

The proposal as posted in the AGM notice was as follows

Name	Position	Prepared to continue serving
Jim Steele	Chairman	Yes
Mike Dennis	Secretary	Yes
Helen Wright	Treasurer	No, but prepared to continue on Committee
Janet Jagan	Committee member	Yes, prepared to stand as Treasurer
David Burrows	Committee member and webmaster	Yes
Angie Pinnington	Committee member	Yes
Malcolm Roberts	Co-opted Committee member	Yes, as full member of Committee

This was taken en bloc, proposed by Carol Bingham, seconded by Jim Addison, and approved unanimously.

11 Any Other Business

There were no AOB's previously notified to the Secretary.

Jim Addison asked to minute a vote of thanks for Geoff's work as auditor for the Club over many years – noted.

Thanks were also expressed for the large amount of work carried out over the last eighteen months by Jim, Helen, Hilary, Janet, and in particular David Tilley. Without DT's vision, drive, and sustained effort, the BWS on-line activities would not have been possible.

The meeting closed at 1130am.

An informal discussion on various Club matters then took place amongst members present.