

Warrington Bridge Club
Minutes of 47th AGM, held on 2 March 2024, 1030am, on Zoom

Present:

Mike Dennis (Chairman)
Jim Steele (Secretary, website, Education, teaching)
Janet Jagan (Treasurer)
David Burrows (Competitions Secretary)
Malcolm Roberts (Teaching, u3a Liaison))
Brigitte Massey (Committee member)
Carolyn Bailey (asst Secretary)
Janine Curwell (Social Secretary)
Ian Douglas (Publicity)

and 10 club members.

1 Apologies:

The following 10 members tendered their apologies: Judy Brown, Anne Bunstone, David Martin, Jim Hainsworth, Brenda Newton, Carrol Roberts, David Simmers, Cynthia Simpson, Malcolm Strange, Debbie Taylor.

2 Minutes of previous AGM, held on 4th March 2023

The minutes were accepted as read, nem con.

3 Matters Arising

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

4 Chairman's report

The Chairman's report had previously been circulated with the AGM documentation and posted on the website. He thanked the Committee members for their hard work, in particular Janet for the efficient way she manages our finances, often a difficult and thankless task, and also Keith Perry for his tireless support for the Club operating the dealing machine.

He reflected that the Club was moving from strength to strength compared to where we were a few years ago.

5 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

An audited Income & Expenditure account for calendar year 2023 had been posted with the AGM documentation, and on the Club notice board.

The Treasurer remarked that the finances are on a sound footing, despite a significant increase in costs, largely due to increased activity on Thursdays, which had entailed a lot of hard work by Jim and others. She tabled a chart showing increase in room hire costs, Alford Hall membership costs (which we have to pay for each member), and EBU costs. We made a surplus of about £1,300 in 2023. In 2024, by keeping table fees and subscriptions at present levels, we are likely to operate at approximately break-even.

The meeting discussed the surplus the Club presently has, and Geoff Fisher's proposal to reduce it. There was general agreement that we do need to retain some surplus to cover likely expenditure on replacement of equipment (dealing machine, Bridgemate system, laptop, etc) going forward, and that the Committee should be looking to how to use some of the surplus for the benefit of members, seeking suggestions from our membership on how best to do this, for example related to premises. A relevant factor is that we do not have security of tenure for our Bridge room at Alford Hall.

The meeting was content to adopt the Committee proposals as follows:

1 That playing fees and subscriptions are held at present levels for 2024, and are reviewed for 2025, noting that for all except On-line members, the Annual Subscription includes the membership fee of Alford Hall, to comply with their rules.

2 That the Committee consider how to deal with the financial surplus, seeking suggestions from members, and coming back to the membership with our proposals, during 2024.

6 Appointment of Auditor

The Secretary remarked that our auditor, Brian Drinkwater, had been of great help to her in dealing with the Club accounts, helping her build up her expertise.

The Chairman tabled the motion that we reappoint Brian as auditor for a further year. This was proposed by Hilary Wood, seconded by Janine Curwell, and approved unanimously.

7 Setting of annual subscriptions and playing fees

This was covered by the resolution in item 5 above.

8 Method of Collecting Subscriptions and Playing Fees

This is working acceptably well, and no changes were proposed.

9 Election of Officers and Management Committee

Brigitte Massey is standing down from the Committee, but will continue with her support for the teaching classes.

The proposal for election of the new Committee was as tabled on the website and notice board, as follows

Name	Position
Mike Dennis	Chairman
Jim Steele	Secretary, website, education/teaching
Janet Jagan	Treasurer
David Burrows	Competitions Secretary
Malcolm Roberts	Teaching, u3a liaison
Janine Curwell	Social Secretary
Carolyn Bailey	Assistant secretary
Ian Douglas	Publicity

The Chairman suggested that the above could be approved en bloc. Proposed by Carol Bingham, seconded by Geoff Fisher; approved unanimously.

10 Any Other Business

There were no items of AOB notified prior to the meeting, further to Geoff Fisher's suggestion, discussed in item 5.

The Chairman thanked the members present for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 11.20am.