

Warrington Bridge Club
Minutes of 46th AGM, held on 4 March 2023, 1030am, on Zoom

Present:

Jim Steele (Chairman)
Mike Dennis (Secretary)
Janet Jagan (Treasurer)
Malcolm Roberts (Committee member)
Brigitte Massey (Committee member)
Janine Curwell (Committee member)

and 8 club members.

1 Apologies:

The following 19 members tendered their apologies: Simon Barber, Steve Bentley, Janet Brown, David Burrows, Geoff Fisher, David Gartside, Peter Harrison, Roger Hesp, Helen Hesp, Stuart Hunter, Linda Ince, Tony James, David Lynas, Helen Miller, Angie Pinnington, Pat Shaw, Malcolm Strange, Kate Ward, Mavis Whittle.

A majority of those (12 members) also stated that they were happy to appoint the Chairman to use their proxy vote if necessary, and those names were recorded in case required.

2 Minutes of previous AGM, held on 23rd April 2022

The minutes were accepted as read, proposed by Carol Bingham and seconded by Janine Curwell.
Approved unanimously.

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.

The Chairman gave a brief summary. He expressed optimism about the future of the Club. Numbers are steadily rising, with healthy number of new players attending lessons on Thursday mornings. We would of course like to build up our playing numbers on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons, and the Committee is always open to suggestions from members about how to make the sessions more attractive. Our on-line activities continue, with Friday evenings on RealBridge being particularly popular. Carol Bingham remarked that we should record our thanks to David Tilley, who had been instrumental in getting this going at the start of lockdown. The meeting concurred.

The meeting also thanked the Chairman for his hard work over the past three years. He was standing down as Chairman at this meeting.

5 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

An audited Income & Expenditure account for calendar year 2022 had been posted with the AGM documentation, and on the Club notice board.

The Treasurer remarked that things are running well, and we are in a sound financial position, able to ride the cost increases which we are incurring for eg room hire and EBU charges.

A question was asked about whether we should have an interest-bearing account. The Treasurer explained the difficulties of opening business accounts, on a two-to-sign basis, and it was accepted that such a move would add to the work and complexity, for little advantage.

The Chairman explained the significant differences year to year in On-line Bridge expenditure, in relation to the incidence of payments made to Stretford Bridge Club, which did not reflect the incidence of actual costs. We now have an accurate handle on our payments due to Stretford Bridge Club, which fall due every two months.

The accounts were accepted: proposed by Janine Curwell, seconded by Malcolm Roberts. Approved unanimously.

6 Appointment of Auditor

Our auditor, Brian Drinkwater, took over from Geoff Fisher last time, so he has now audited our annual accounts on two occasions. Janet expressed confidence in Brian, saying he is professional to work with, helpful, and meticulous. The meeting was asked to approve his appointment for a further year. Proposed by Carol Bingham, seconded by Janine Curwell. Approved unanimously.

7 Setting of the annual subscription and visitor's fees

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the present annual subscriptions and visitor's fees:
Full members £20, New Players £10, On-line members £10; Visitors £5 per session.

In the case of full and new player members, the subscription includes membership of Alford Hall (one of the conditions for us hiring the venue). We know that Alford Hall are raising their subscriptions from 1st April but we have not yet been told by how much. However, it is likely to be a modest increase and the Club will be able to absorb the extra cost. We pay this as one annual block payment to Alford Hall, providing them with a member list.

A question was asked about how long members were entitled to retain New Player status. The Chairman explained that it was the remainder of the calendar year in which they join, plus one further year. A significant number of people had therefore moved from new Player to Full member on 1/1/23.

Proposal to retain annual subscription and visitor's fees unchanged: proposed Malcolm Roberts, seconded Janine Curwell. Approved unanimously.

8 Method of Collecting Subscriptions and Playing Fees

Our cashless system by and large works well by and large, with billing on a two-monthly basis. The meeting considered whether we might increase the period to 3 months, to reduce admin work.

Janet Jagan said that she felt the present system was working well, and was not too onerous. She preferred to keep things as they are. There was no demur from the meeting.

9 **Election of Officers and Management Committee**

Jim Steele is standing down as Chairman. David Tilley has resigned from the Committee.

The Committee has made a proposal for the composition of the new Committee as follows, as notified on the website and on the Club notice board:

NAME	ROLE
Mike Dennis	Chairman
Jim Steele	Secretary, Website, Education/teaching
Janet Jagan	Treasurer
David Burrows	Competitions Secretary
Janine Curwell	Social Secretary
Malcolm Roberts	u3a liaison and teaching
Brigitte Massey	u3a liaison and teaching
Carolyn Bailey	Assistant secretary

The meeting was asked to approve the appointment of the above 8 people en bloc. Proposed by Carol Bingham, seconded by Val Davies, and approved unanimously.

The meeting thanked all the committee members, especially the Chairman for the large amount of work involved in getting the club through the difficult last three years, and to Dave Tilley who was instrumental in setting up and running the online arrangements, which are continuing.

10 **Any Other Business**

There were no items of AOB notified prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.10am.