**Bristol Bridge Club**

Registered Charity Number 1167959, Company Number CE007705

Grenville Hall, 99 Oldfield Road, Bristol BS8 4QQ, [www.bristolbridgeclub.co.uk](http://www.bristolbridgeclub.co.uk), tel. 0117 929 1846



Minutes Annual General Meeting 2024

11 July 2024

1. Members were welcomed to the meeting

We received apologies from 10 members, 1 postal vote was received and there were 2 proxy votes

1. Minutes of the meeting on 6th July 2023 were accepted unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting
2. There were no actions from the minutes

4.1 **Chairs address**

We agreed at last year’s meeting that we would go ahead with the planning process for the renovations and then have a meeting to vote on whether to go ahead with the renovations. The progress has been slow over the year as we have only recently been allocated a planning officer by the council and we do not yet have permission for the work. We have also been applying to grant bodies to see if we can get funding for the new entrance as it will make the club more accessible for those with disabilities. So far we have managed to raise £5,000, but this is considerably less than needed.

We agreed at the last meeting to raise prices to try to cover our costs and I am happy to report that we are now profitable in every area of the club, bridge, teaching, bar and catering.

We have introduced a safeguarding policy which is available at the club and we have appointed a safeguarding lead, Liz Butler. Thank you, Liz, for agreeing to do this role for us.

We have increased our community outreach. We host the chess club, the Mahjong club hosted an event, the Hotwells and Clifton society also used our space as did the local residents for an event. Hosting these events fosters a good relationship with residents in the surrounding area, increases our charitable aims and raises money for the club.

We will shortly be sending out a questionnaire to members about the sessions that people want in an effort to match the sessions with the needs of the players. We still have some sessions that are poorly attended post covid and we want to ensure that we are putting the session on at the times people want to play.

4.2 **Treasurers report**

The previous years accounts showed a loss of £30,000 mainly due to the catering costs which had been subsidised to tempt members back to face to face play. At last year’s AGM we agreed to raise the prices. Our accounts for this year show a loss of £15,000 but this was due to the first half of the year when the prices hadn’t been put up. The last quarter showed a very small profit.

For the coming year the biggest threats to our income are if we need to re-register for VAT, we are close to the cut off point for this and secondly if the incoming government increases the national living wage. We will keep a close eye on developments.

When the club is used by other groups it is rented out at £300-400 per day and more than covers the cost of one of our members being present.

The club building has no structural problems, but it does have a problem with plaster from the 1950s falling off in places.

Members voted to reappoint the independent examiner, Adam Root and Associates, Chartered Accounts. This was proposed by Mike Forrest, seconded by Caroline Drugan and passed unanimously.

4.3 **Membership report**

We now have 353 members. 300 are full members, 6 life members, 2 honorary members and 45 chess members. There has been a rise of 8 members since last year, but this has been due to the number of chess members.

Members who have sadly passed away in past year are Nelson Stephens, Keith Eltringham, Richard Lynn and Geoffrey Nuttall.

5.1 **Election of Secretary**

Teresa Watson was proposed by Joanne Elsey and seconded by Jackie Coles and was elected unanimously.

5.2 **Election of Trustees**

Kimberley Warner was proposed by Hilda Ball and seconded by Jane Barrett and was elected unanimously.

6 **Any other business**

Anne Huddleston expressed disappointment about the website not being updated. We hope that with the newly appointed trustees we will make some progress with this.

Mike Letts stated that he was not happy about the price increases at the bar and suggested that the bar pricing structure should be re-considered. Mike offered to restart the bridge committee and would like some volunteers to join him.

David Jones asked if the committee had any other thoughts about providing another session for premier pairs. Stuart replied that hopefully we can provide another session and that the questionnaire to members should find out what the demand for this might be. Jo Luton expressed concern that if the premier pairs played on a Monday it might stop beginners having a night for them.

Kimberley Watson asked about the beginners who attend Ralph’s course but stop coming to the club after this and what can be done to encourage those players.

Fiona Herlihy commented that Friday night used to be a popular playing session for all levels and it is a shame that it can’t be revived.

Brian Nicholls thought the communication in the club could be improved by either posting minutes of the meetings on a board or updating the website.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm