

Minutes of the 50th AGM held on 24 May 2022

The minutes of the 50th AGM were held to be a true record of the meeting.

President's Report

Peter presented his [report](#).

Honorary Secretary's Report

The Honorary Secretary presented his [report](#).

Paul said that 2023-24 will be his last year as Secretary.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer presented his [report](#).

Ken Forrest asked whether the club held charity status: it does not.

Tony confirmed that table money, both online and at the Parish Centre, and the annual club subscription will remain unchanged. However the SBU is expected to raise the SBU membership to £12 [**Update:** the SBU did raise the membership fee to £12 at its AGM on 30 May 2023]

Honorary Competition Secretary's Report

The Honorary Competition Secretary presented his [report](#).

Appointment of Account Examiner

The motion "Greaves, West and Ayre are reappointed Account Examiner" was proposed by Tony Reed-Jones and seconded by Chris Orchard. It was passed unopposed.

Election of Office bearers and Committee members

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
President	Peter Calder	<i>Paul Gipson</i>	<i>Tony Reed-Jones</i>
Vice President	Chris Orchard	<i>Peter Calder</i>	<i>Paul Gipson</i>
Honorary Secretary	Paul Gipson	<i>Tony Reed-Jones</i>	<i>Chris Orchard</i>
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Reed-Jones	<i>Chris Orchard</i>	<i>Paul Gipson</i>
Honorary Competitions Secretary	Louis Moore	<i>Paul Gipson</i>	<i>Tony Reed-Jones</i>
Committee ¹	Nigel Marlow	<i>Paul Gipson</i>	<i>Penny Davidson</i>
Committee ¹	Peter Bistram	<i>Peter Calder</i>	<i>Paul Gipson</i>
Committee ²	Perry Vassie	<i>Peter Calder</i>	<i>Paul Gipson</i>

As there were no objections, these nominations were elected unopposed.

Committee proposed resolutions

- Motion I

"The Committee proposes continuing the existing schedule, namely online bridge on Tuesdays and face-to-face bridge on Thursdays, for the 2023-24 season."

Peter and Paul explained the Committee's reasoning behind the motion, namely the lack of enthusiasm for more evening sessions at either the Parish Centre or on BBO. There was broad agreement in the room and online for the motion.

David King and Nigel Marlow asked that the competitions be run on the same evenings as 2022-23.

Christopher Smith proposed accepting the motion and was seconded by Chris Orchard. This was passed without objection.

- Motion II

"The Committee proposes starting an afternoon bridge session on Mondays from 2:30-5pm at the Parish Centre."

Peter explained the Committee's intentions for this proposal. Paul and Christopher said from their experience at other clubs that afternoon bridge started slowly but eventually became the most popular session.

Peter confirmed that Monday afternoon bridge was intended as mainly social with none of the regular club competitions being run on it.

¹ Three-year term

² One-year term

Jane Smithson asked whether teaching could also use the hall at the same time.

Paul asked for a show of hands of who would consider playing on Monday afternoons: a clear majority of those in the room would consider it.

Chris Orchard proposed accepting the motion and this was seconded by Kate Mole, It was passed without objection.

Members proposed resolutions

There were no resolutions proposed by members.

AOCB

Christopher Smith thanked the Committee for their work over the past year: this was agreed by all.

We will investigate a portable microphone for next year's AGM as some speakers were hard to hear online.

Prize winners recognition and presentation

Peter Calder presented the trophies to those present.



The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

2022-23 Trophy winners

The 2022-23 season started in September 2022 and was split between bridge at the Parish Centre and Bridge Base Online.

Eighty-three club members participated in at least one evening of a club competition, of whom 72 won master points and 40 won prize money.

Trophy	Winners
Royal Bank of Scotland Cup	Helen and Paul Gipson
Anthony Scott Cup	Helen and Paul Gipson, Tony Reed-Jones and Chris Orchard
McDonald Cup	Ros French and Reg Drysdale
Tom Woodman Trophy	Trish Frew, Christopher Smith, Eric Price and Tony Oates
Wilf White Trophy	Ros French and Jean Mole
Robin Pearson Pot	Trish Frew and Jane Smithson
Martin Trophy	David King and Nigel Marlow
Calder Trophy	David King and Nigel Marlow
Grindon Trophy	Colin Edney
Lindsay Trophy	Peter Ross
Nessie Dickinson Trophy	Penny Davidson and Brian Thomas
George Martin Trophy	Colin Edney
Betty Kelly Trophy	Chris Orchard
Congress Pairs	Liz Barr and Gill Colston
Congress Swiss Teams	Pam and Archie Leith, John Hamilton, Willie Clemie

Bridge achievements by members outwith the club

International events

Paul Gipson, with his brother Alex, won the 2022 IBPA Best Bid Hand of the Year for a grand slam bid in January 2022: it was written up by Barnet Shenkin for the International Bridge Press Association and normally goes to someone a lot more famous.

National events

Sandy Duncan's team qualified in the top four of the Camrose Trial.

Jill Connor and Tony Reed-Jones came fifth in the Jesner Ranked Pairs.

Sandy Duncan, playing with Bob McPaul, came third in the Grand Master Ranked Pairs.

Sandy Duncan, playing with Ying Piper, Lucia Barrett and Veronica Guy, came second in the Rayne Cup (the SBU National Multiple Teams of Four).

Jean Mole and Reg Drysdale were third in the Tuesday Celtic Simultaneous Pairs.

Sandy Duncan was sixth in the Men's National Pairs.

Sandy Duncan, with pickup partner Liz McGowan, won the RealBridge heat of the National Pairs.

Sandy Duncan's team won the second division of the Scottish Online League 9.

District/Area events

Alan French and Colin Edney were second in the BABC Border Pairs. Jean Mole and Reg Drysdale were third.

Ros French, Margaret Patterson, Jean Mole and Reg Drysdale were second in the BABC Border Teams.

Sandy Duncan, with Bob McPaul, came second in the Central District Pairs. Sheila Laird and Eric Vass were 11th.

Reg and Diana Drysdales were sixth in the East District Fitch.

Sandy Duncan won the 2019-20 Maclaren Cup with Craigleith.

Other events

David King won the 1 Star Master category of the SBU July Bronze Bidding Challenge. He also won the March edition and was second in the February edition.

Jane Smithson and John Smithson won the Master and District Master categories, respectively, of the SBU February Bronze Bidding Challenge. The convenor noted that it was the first time they had agreed on each answer.

Diana and Reg Drysdale, Ros French and Margaret Patterson were third in the Berwick Congress Swiss Teams. Chris Orchard, Tony Reed-Jones, Marlyn Hodgson and Louis Moore won the Bronze prize.

Promotions

The following club members have been promoted since the 2022 AGM:

Diana Drysdale - Senior Life Master

Helen Gipson - Scottish Master

Jill Connor - Regional Master

Amanda Douglas - 3 Star Master

Kitty Home Robertson - 2 Star Master

Christopher Smith - 1 Star Master

Morven Stone - Master

Nigel Marlow - Master

Tony Reed-Jones - Master

Ian Guthrie - District Master

Linda Warcup - District Master

Chris Orchard - District Master

Jude Gardner - Club Master

President's report 2022-23

Last year in his report at the AGM Christopher talked of the "new normal" after the pandemic. This year we have experienced the reality. The panic about Covid is now over, though Covid itself is still ongoing. We have adopted the practice of playing online on Tuesdays, when we have typically 10 tables and playing face to face on Thursdays, when we have up to 7 tables. In the past it was quite usual to have 12 tables playing face to face. Covid has certainly disrupted the operation of the club.

You will see the committee recommends that next year we try an extra session of face to face bridge on a Monday afternoon. It will be interesting to see how this will work.

During the height of the Covid crisis there were genuine fears that the stuffy atmosphere created in the Parish Centre on busy evenings would be conducive to the transmission of disease, so the committee looked at other possible venues. The two most likely candidates were the Sports Centre in Tweedmouth or the Northern View social club in Spittal. We looked at both venues but after discussion with the PCC it was decided to remain at the Parish Centre. We have given the Parochial Church Council a grant and they have installed a PIV ventilation system to improve the atmosphere in the Parish Centre. In truth the new system has not been tested fully in a crowded room.

In January we offered to provide bridge lessons for beginners. These were to be held in St James Centre and led by Linda Warcup. Unfortunately, enrollment numbers were not sufficient to make the course viable and so it did not go ahead.

Last September we held a party to celebrate our 50 th anniversary. This was well attended and made a pleasing preliminary to our return to the Parish Centre. Similarly, there was a good turn out for our traditional Christmas Party in December.

This April we revived our face to face Congress at the rugby club in Scremerston. We had over 70 participants from as far afield as Glasgow with one or two national players competing. I thought it was a great success. This was convened by Chris Orchard and directed by Paul Gipson. Well done to both of them.

There is a long list of bridge playing achievements by our members outwith the club. These are posted on our website and I will just mention three of them now. In international competition Paul and his brother Alex were awarded a prize by the International Bridge Press Association for the best bid hand in 2022. Sandy Duncan featured in several national team and pairs events including qualifying in the top four of the Camrose Trial. Jill Connor and Tony Reed Jones came 5 th in the Jesner Ranked Pairs.

The club is reliant on a host of volunteers to run as it does: a competition secretary, directors for online and face to face bridge, a partnership secretary, someone to make up and deliver hands each week, people to help at social events, a committee to guide the club through the year, a treasurer for our finances and a secretary to organise everything. You will be aware of the individuals involved and I would like now to thank them all. They make the club the success that it undoubtedly is.

Christopher Smith, Jean Mole and Penny Davidson will today be standing down from the Committee by rota and we will shortly be electing their replacements. Thank you for all your work and support.

Peter Calder

Honorary Secretary's report 2022-23

The club membership at the end of the year is 93, which is close to pre-Covid numbers. This number has been boosted by a few 'online' members, who have been very welcome and ensured a good number at most of our online evenings even if they are confused by the number of competitions we run.

The transition from online bridge to a hybrid model for the club has been challenging and will probably remain so, but I think we have done a reasonable job for the first season.

The directing team at the Parish Centre has faced a raft of problems unseen for two years: people forgetting how to use the Bridgemates: enter scores; revokes; bids out of turn, slow play and noise!

The highlight of the season was our 50th anniversary. Members, with Jean coordinating, put on an excellent spread and Colin provided an amusing and thoughtful toast to the club. It was great to see so many people there, especially all the founder members who were able to attend.



We were also back at the rugby club for the 40th Berwick Congress last month. It was a delight to see 17 tables in play and the event was enjoyed by everyone. Hopefully next year we can find another couple of tables.

Chris Orchard did an excellent job as the first-time convenor.

The records show that 83 club members played in our tournaments this season, with 72 of them sharing nearly 16,000 master points. But the real heroes are the directing team who have kept it all running: all have compromised their own chances in various competitions to allow the rest of us to play and we should thank them for that: online that is Eric and Sue, Stuart and Elaine, Jane, Julian, Trish and Colin; and offline, Louis, Marilyn, Colin and Kitty.

I should also thank Louis, who does a lot both in front of and behind the scenes; and Kate Mole who has taken over dealing the boards with enthusiasm and competence.

I'd like to give my thanks to Peter, the Committee, and all the club members for their support over the season and say that next year will be my final one as Secretary.

I accepted the nomination for the role before we'd ever heard of 'a lockdown' and it has been a challenging three years. One more year will be enough for me and give the club enough time to convince someone to do the job and, perhaps, time to shadow my work. I also think it will be healthier for the long-term future of the club with a change in the leadership.

I have enjoyed my time working with the club members and committee, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished together in the strangest of times. Finally, I am not abandoning the club: I still intend to play regularly and will be helping behind the scenes as always.

Paul Gipson

30 May 2023

Honorary Treasurer's report 2022-23

Financial review

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis and report the actual cash receipts and cash payments made in the reporting period. The financial statement highlights a small deficit of £119 for the year to 4th May 2023, resulting in a year end cash balance of £11536.

With interest rates increasing in the last twelve months after many years of almost zero rates, a 35-day notice savings account was set up so the club should receive a small amount of interest on its cash in the years ahead.

Receipts

Total receipts for the year were £8084 a significant increase from the previous year's total of £3422 with Face to Face (F2F) Bridge returning both in the Parish Centre and for our annual congress, while we maintained an online presence with some competitions taking place once again on the BBO platform.

The F2F evenings generated £1350 for the club with the average number of tables over the period being 6 on each evening.

The BBO/SBU remittances include a payment from the SBU of £1128 in March 2023, being funds withheld over 30 months for potential VAT liabilities which following professional advice are no longer deemed necessary.

Other income of £128 is predominantly a few bottles of champagne purchased but not used at the 50th party, these were subsequently purchased by members and the club reimbursed.

The club had 94 members during the period under review of whom 77 had Berwick as their home club with 17 members joining the club to play in our Tuesday online competitions.

Expenditure

With F2F returning the room hire costs of £1265 up to 31st March 2023 from the Church are included in the total of £1337 shown in the financial statement.

Prizes for 2022/23 do not include prizes for the F2F Thursday competitions which finish on 11th May 2023. The engraving costs for 2022/23 will be in next year's accounts.

Master points purchased totalled £440, while the affiliation fees were £616 (77 members at £8).

Equipment purchases and IT costs included £390 for a new laptop, Pianola annual fee of £150, Scorebridge annual fee of £48 as well as some minor spend on batteries, USBs etc.

Party expenses and refreshments included £404 for the 50th party in September 2022 and £716 for the Xmas party.

It was agreed that the club would make a one-off grant to the PCC to allow them to purchase and install a PIV system at a cost of £915.

The following charitable donations were made during the year:

- Lifeboat Berwick - £70
- ECATS - £160 (including children in need)
- Bobby Allan charity - £32
- Berwick Cancer cars - £100

The sundries total of £422 for the year includes £120 for advertising costs for the aborted Bridge classes and £112 for travelling costs for Directors training in Edinburgh, amongst others.

Congress

On Sunday April 23rd, 2023, the club held its first F2F congress since 2019. The financial statement shows a small surplus and the committee decided to send £100 to the Berwick Cancer cars organisation.

BABC

In August 2021, the club took over responsibility for BABC including all the finances.

The financial position of BABC on 4th May 2023 is shown below.

	£	£
Capital balance at 4 th May 2022		652.43
Income		
Income from events	182.00	
Subscriptions	35.00	
Total receipts	217.00	
Expenditure		
Engraving costs & prizes	99.31	
Total expenditure	99.31	
Surplus		117.69
Capital balance at 4 th May 2023		770.12

On 4th May 2023 the bank balance with RBS was £12305.66 (£770.12 – BABC plus £11535.54 Berwick Bridge club)

2023/24 Table Money & Subs

We believe the SBU subscription will be increasing to £12 (back to the level in 2019).

The annual membership for Berwick is proposed to remain at £1. Both to be collected as usual on or around 1st September 2023.

Summer bridge will be free to all members.

Table money for F2F bridge is proposed to remain at £2 per person, while table money for BBO events will remain at BB\$2.

At the 2021 AGM it was agreed that payments to play F2F bridge would be collected in three tranches during the season.

In 2022/23, £20 was collected in September 2022 and a further £20 in January 2023 (for those playing sufficient times) and as agreed at the start of the season we shall be looking for members to settle the amounts owed at the end of May.

An email with all relevant details has been sent to members showing times played and amounts owed to or owed from the club. Any member that has not played sufficient times during the season to use all sums paid are to have any overpayment refunded to them.

BERWICK UPON TWEED BRIDGE CLUB
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 4th May 2023

Income (£)		<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
Table money	1350		-	
Subscriptions	710		704	
Congress ³	2088		-	
BBO/SBU – net remittances	3208		2700	
Xmas Party	592		-	
Other income	128		18	
Interest	8		-	
		8084		3422
Expenditure				
Room hire & insurance	1337		72	
Prizes & engraving	355		621	
Master points & affiliation fees	1056		737	
Equipment purchases & IT & teams	629		976	
Xmas party	716		-	
50 th Party refreshments	404		-	
Ex gratia payments – Church Hall (grant 2023)	915		500	
Sundries	422		201	
Charitable donations	362		284	
Congress expenses	2007		42	
		(8203)		(3433)
Surplus / (deficit) for period		(119)		(11)
Balance b/fwd. - RBS		11655		11666
Balance c/fwd. - RBS		11536		11655

³ Last year's congress 2021/22 held online and income included in BBO/SBU remittances.

Honorary Competitions Secretary's report 2022-23

The competitions have been concluded satisfactorily this season either online or F2F some with exciting photo finishes.

The Virtual section of the club is more successful than the real life one where the lack of numbers has resulted in more Howell movements in order to avoid lengthy sitouts. (Three boards is as much as flesh & blood can tolerate) Also f2f doesn't have the luxury of robots – the cupboard isn't big enough.

I want to talk about technology.

First we had a webpage, then a scoring programme, followed by wireless electronic travellers – Bridgemates. Now we have wifi broadband so that results can be uploaded directly from the club. We also have online bridge which I'm glad to say has sustained the club through Covid. Then there is THE CLOUD ...

It's here & it's here to stay: in fact it's driving bridge forward.

But we have, in our generation, (I don't think it will survive into the future) a large group who are technophobic. How else can you explain our losing some quite reasonable members after their aversion or avoidance of playing the online game.

The club has sufficient directors at present but I seem to be doing all the computer setups & uploads. Paul & Linda are the only others who are confident enough to operate the system, which has moved on since Covid. I don't mind doing it but with so few of us being savvy I feel the club is vulnerable. So I'm appealing to any regular Thursday players to volunteer to learn the technical side of running events so that our directors don't feel over pressured.

I want volunteers. Three of our members undertook Club Director courses this session- Stuart (who is also an online director), Linda & Chris (our next chief). I send all our gratitude to them & to all the other directors - both F2F & online. Particularly thanks to Paul for setting up both the virtual club & the f2f operating system. Thanks too go to Kate for learning the dealing machine.

Without volunteers we wouldn't have a club. Those who do are its lifeblood.

Most of the tasks required are trivial but all are necessary. One of the least demanding is serving on the committee. Anyone who has done so knows what a truly onerous task that is. And yet I have only once in my time as a member known of an election. Everyone else has been invited or co-opted. It hasn't been easy filling the vacancies this year. We are using the virtual membership to do so. They can only give input – all meetings are online.

A task may be as simple as waiting behind at the close of a session so that a lady director doesn't have to brave passing through the graveyard alone. Other tasks may be clearing up at the close.

So please volunteer.

Ask not what your club can do for you. Rather what can you do for the club?

Sorry for being preachy.