

Minutes of the 45th AGM of Berwick Bridge Club held on Thursday 12 May 2016 in the Parish Church Meeting Room

Present – President Jean Mole plus 40 members.

Apologies received from

Mike & Christine Rowell, Jeremy & Morven Stone, Kitty Home Robertson, Penny Davidson, Kath Payne, Jo Rowley, Reg & Diana Drysdale, Ros French, Ian McCreath, Gerald Sandwith.

Minutes of Last AGM

These were accepted by George Martin and seconded by Terry Harris.

President's Report (on file)

Jean reported a busy year for the Committee dealing with the introduction of Pianola, updating the constitution, etc.

She stated that the Committee had decided to change the scoring of all aggregate competitions to cross imping which will enable the computer to work out calculation of handicaps.

She stated that although the club is going well the standard of play has dropped as the club is no longer able to support a league team in either of the top 2 divisions of the Eastern District League.

Thanks were extended to all those who have assisted in the running of the club.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

The accounts showed a surplus of £458 for the year. The treasurer, Jane Smithson, reported that the finances were in a healthy state with £9,000 in the bank. She proposed that table money should remain unchanged however subscriptions will need to rise to £8.00 to cover the increase in the SBU levy of £1.00.

The congress has made a profit of £332, the majority of which will be donated to charity. Members were invited to make suggestions of suitable charities to Committee members.

It was noted that sundry expenses had risen by some £300 to a total of £927. It was suggested that perhaps these expenses could be split into smaller amounts. Jane explained that this year's total included a one-off payment for the directors' course and, as previously, support for the league teams.

The accounts were accepted by Christopher Smith and seconded by Christine McCreath.

Honorary Competitions Secretary's Report (on file)

Louis reported that following on from George Martin's suggestion at the last AGM eleven people had successfully attended a one day Club Directors course.

There had been satisfactory attendance at all competitions with the exception of SIMS which were not as well supported.

Thanks were extended to all directors; Brian Griffiths and Marilyn Hodgson have agreed to become ScoreBridge holders. This should mean that there should be somebody who is computer savvy present on any evening to assist the director with any computer problems.

Paul Gipson will be recalculating handicaps based upon the results of Thursday evening competitions played over the last three years; they will be displayed on the website in due course.

David Elder said he felt it was important that all pairs should play at every table in the Royal Bank Competition. Louis agreed that whilst this was preferable, it depended on how many people were present, 10½ tables being a particularly difficult number, and he would look for alternative movements.

League Teams

Jean Mole reported that the 'A' team had been relegated from the second division. Thirteen people had played for the team; however the majority of the team had decided to retire after many years of travelling to Haddington. Good wishes were extended to the new team which will be captained by Garneth Ellis.

Trish Frew reported a successful season for the Bears. After a steady start the team had performed well in the latter part of the season and finished in the middle of Division 4. Thanks were extended to all who had played for the team and for their good natured support.

Appointment of Accounts Examiner

Greaves, West and Ayre were unanimously reappointed.

Adoption of New Constitution

This was proposed by David Elder and seconded by Helen Gipson. It was unanimously adopted by a show of hands.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

President	Garneth Ellis
Past President	Jean Mole
Honorary Competition Secretary	Louis Moore
Honorary Secretary	Trish Frew
Honorary Treasurer	Jane Smithson

There were 3 nominations for 2 new committee members, John Smithson, Paul Gipson and David King and so a secret ballot was held with members present voting for up to 2 people.

John Smithson and Paul Gipson were duly appointed.

Garneth Ellis took the Chair.

AOCB

George Martin suggested that some members should go on to attend a higher level of Directors Course.

Summer Bridge

This will be run by the club over the summer on Thursday evenings organised by Janet Beattie. Improvers, who need not be club members, will be encouraged to attend. It will not be essential to come with a partner. Gentle coaching will be available on some evenings.

Rita McCreath proposed that the role of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer should be a 10 year maximum term.

Paul Gipson stated that office bearers were re-elected annually so it should not be too difficult to get rid of 'despots'. The motion was not seconded and was not therefore carried.

Christine McCreath stated that there had been a few occasions where members had not shown up on the evening to play in team events, particularly the Tom Woodman. She suggested that a captain for each team should be appointed who would be responsible for checking that a complete team is available.

John Smithson reported that next season competition updates will only be available on the Pianola website.

Christopher Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing President, Jean Mole.