

**Minutes of the 46th AGM of Berwick Bridge Club held on
Thursday 18 May 20178 in the Parish Church Meeting Room**

Present: Garneth Ellis (President) plus 41 members

Apologies: Kelvin Butler, Reg & Diana Drysdale, Colin Edney, Trish Frew, Brian Griffiths, Ian Guthrie, Helen Hardwick, Kitty Home Robertson, Catherine McConachie, Ian McCreath, Sandy Moor, Jo Rowley, Christine & Mike Rowell, Perry Vassie.

The President welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

It was pointed out that, under “Honorary Treasurer’s Report”, the wording should read “*Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Christopher Smith and seconded by Christine McCreath.*” Subject to this amendment, acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Tony Houghton, seconded by Christine McCreath, and passed unanimously.

2. President’s Report (on file)

Garneth began by explaining that Hon. Sec. Trish Frew had to be with her seriously ill father and consequently was unable to be present this evening. He also reported that Nigel Marlow had been readmitted to hospital following his recent bout of ill-health: members joined in wishing Nigel a swift recovery.

He congratulated Club members who had distinguished themselves elsewhere during the previous 12 months, and noted with pleasure the extent to which members were doing well in district, national, and international events. The Club was also encouraging members to attend SBU Directors’ courses.

Finally, Garneth thanked all our competition directors and scorers, those who handled the computer, those who managed our catering facilities, and those who prepared the tables and cleared away each session.

3. Hon. Treasurer’s Report.

Jane reported a surplus of £864 for the year just ended (2016: £458), thanks partly to a profit from the 2016 Summer Bridge. The Club’s finances are very healthy, with the closing bank balance at the Club’s financial year-end of £10,007.23 (2016: £9,141). Much appreciation was expressed to Janet and all who had been involved in organising the Summer Bridge: as well as being very enjoyable, it had helped to bring new members into the Club and so enhance its financial situation.

Christmas Party – hiring outside caterers had entailed an extra cost, but it was generally felt that it was money well spent in terms of quality and reduced work for Club members.

Major expenditure items – Jane pointed out that the item heading “Equipment purchases” in the audited accounts was an abbreviation by the auditors of “Equipment & Teams” in the Club’s account books and as such included the subsidy by the Club to the two League teams (£456 in total). “Master points and affiliation fees” (£1,084) included a subsidy of £289 for the four SIMS competitions; and the increase in “Room hire” from £2,270 to £2,610 was due to the Summer Bridge.

Berwick Congress – Jane reported a surplus of £332 from the 2016 Congress, of which £330 was donated to the Berwick & District Cancer Support Group for “Cars for Cancer.” The surplus from this

year's Congress was expected to be in the region of £445, the increase being due largely to our not having had to pay the Rugby Club for extra lighting.

Table money etc – Jane felt that the table money should remain at £2 per person per night and that the annual Club membership fee should also be unchanged at £1. Unfortunately an increase in the SBU annual sub to £8 means that our members will have to pay a total sub now of £9, described by Jane as “a truly horrible amount to collect and find change for.” She urged more members to use BACS for membership payments, pointing out that this, along with use of emails, was helping to keep down the Club's running costs.

Adoption of the Club Accounts for 2016-17 was proposed by Christopher Smith, seconded by Tony Houghton, and accepted without opposition.

4. Hon. Competitions Secretary's Report (on file)

Louis noted that the use of Cross Imps to replace aggregate scoring had not met with much support, and the Committee was proposing to use Match Pointing for all pairs competitions from now on. (See also item 9.) He said that uploading of results was much simpler on the Pianola system than it had been with Bridgewebs, but pointed out that anyone seeking results entries for the Calder Trophy would need to click on the “Handicap” button on the Martin Trophy page. He paid tribute to all those members – directors and others – who helped with the collection, uploading, correcting, and updating of results, and made a plea for all Bridgemate operators to check their results at the time of entry.

Louis highlighted the low level of participation on SIMS evenings, with the Charity event only attracting six tables.

In conclusion, Louis asked for guidance as to whether or not the Lindsay Trophy should be handicapped. A majority of those present felt that it should continue to be handicapped, but it was also agreed that Jim Lindsay should be asked if he had a strong view one way or the other.

5. League Teams

Garneth reported that the ‘A’ team had had a reasonably successful season, retaining their place in Division 3, whilst Christine McCreath reported that the ‘B’ team had had very mixed results but had managed to hold on to their place in Division 4. Special thanks were given to Marguerite Robson for her long commitment to the Club's team efforts.

6. Appointment of Account Examiner

Re-appointment of Greaves West & Ayre was proposed by Jane Smithson, seconded by Val Martin, and agreed without opposition.

7. Motion by George Martin

George, seconded by Paul Gipson, proposed that the 24-board limit should not apply on Tuesday evening sessions but these could be “up to 27 boards” in cases where this would provide a fairer movement and there were 3-board or longer rounds. George explained that he felt a blanket 24-board limit risked a dumbing-down of Tuesday sessions and consequent detriment to the more experienced players who might represent the Club at a high level. After discussion it was agreed by a large majority that the 24-board limit should not apply to Tuesday evenings but that competition directors should be responsible for maintaining time schedules and guillotining play in the case of excessive delays.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee members

President	Garneth Ellis re-elected
Vice President	Christine McCreath proposed by Garneth Ellis & seconded by Morven Stone
Hon Secretary	Trish Frew re-elected
Hon Treasurer	Jane Smithson re-elected
Hon Competitions Secretary	Louis Moore re-elected
Committee members	Nicola Corbyn proposed by Rita McCreath & seconded by Jean Mole Kate Mole proposed by John Smithson & seconded by Margaret Patterson Morven Stone (to replace Christine McCreath for 2016-17) proposed by Jane Smithson & seconded by Tony Houghton

(Note: Paul Gipson, Dorothy Moore, and John Smithson continue as members under the terms of the Club's constitution.)

9. A.O.C.B.

Competition scoring (see item 5) – it was decided by a majority vote to continue with the present scoring methods for the coming season.

Subsidies to League teams (see item 3) – it was agreed without opposition that any changes to present arrangements should be the responsibility of the Club Committee.

Presentation of trophies

Trophies for 2016-17 were presented by Marguerite Robson as follows:

Royal Bank Cup	Brian Thomas & George Martin
McDonald Cup	Colin Edney & Penny Davidson
Wilf White Trophy	George Martin & Penny Davidson
Scott Cup	Paul & Helen Gipson, Janet Beattie & Ros French
Calder Trophy	Christopher Smith & Jane Smithson
Martin Trophy	Christopher Smith & Jane Smithson
Pearson Pot	Janet Beattie & Morven Stone
Tom Woodman Trophy	Ros French & Colin Edney, Louis Moore & Ian Guthrie
Grindon Trophy	Nigel Marlow
Lindsay Trophy	Val Martin
Nessie Dickinson Trophy	Marilyn Hodgson & Marguerite Robson