**CORSHAM BRIDGE CLUB**

**AGM MINUTES 2015 - DRAFT**

Date of Meeting: 11 November 2015

Venue: Royal British Legion clubhouse, Newlands Road, Corsham

The Annual General Meeting of the Corsham Bridge Club began shortly after 7.10pm with Chris Baldock chairing. There were 10 members present.

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the meeting and provided them with copies of the Agenda, Minutes of 2014 AGM and Competitions Secretary’s report, all of which had been circulated in advance by email to those who had that facility.

Apologies for absence were received from Sue and Keith Phillips, Evelyn Power, Mike Forward, and Hilary Swan.

**Last Year’s Minutes**

The minutes from the 2014 AGM were taken as read and the Chairman invited comments on their accuracy and any matters arising. There being none, the minutes were proposed by Janet Ladle and seconded by Colin Ladle as a true and accurate record. The meeting unanimously agreed.

**Secretary’s Report**

The Chairman advised that the Secretary had provided him with information to be included in his report, thus obviating the need for a Secretary’s report.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Janet Ladle reminded members that, on 4 Nov, she had provided copies of the Accounts for the Year Ending 31 Aug 2015 together with a comparison for the previous 3 years. She provided further copies to anyone who wanted them. Janet said that the accounts had been completed on 3 September and had then been audited by Sue Phillips.

Janet drew the meeting’s attention to the following:

1. An excess of income over expenditure of £525.31 in 2014-15 was high compared to much smaller sums for the previous 3 years. She said that the main reason for this was that we did not pay any rent to the Royal British Legion (RBL). However, members had instead to pay an annual subscription to the RBL.
2. Training and advertising costs of £56.29 and £27.00 respectively. This was the only time that such costs appeared in the accounts in the last 4 years and was due to a series of free lessons having been run last year, with associated costs for materials and advertising. Also the Club had advertised for new members, because of declining membership. Janet stated that lessons were again being run this year, but students were paying for these and so she did not anticipate any training costs falling to the club. At present she had no visibility of the training costs or income, but she was hoping for a net income to the Club.
3. Income and expenditure of £541.94 and £245.35 respectively for the WCBA “Corsham Pairs” event in October 2014. Janet said that there had been various problems with the venue in the new Corsham Campus, as a result of which, Wiltshire Contract Bridge Association had decided to remove this event from their calendar. The Chairman said that the higher costs of the venue, compared to previous years, and the significantly reduced number of Club members available to help with the preparation of food and teas, had militated against the continuance of the event.

*Post meeting note: WCBA have this year run a substitute event in Devizes, entitled “Open Pairs”.*

1. The full cost (£477.88) of the Xmas meal, provided free of charge to members, had fallen to the Club. This was as agreed at the 2014 AGM, when it was decided not to reduce the Table Money charge, but to keep it at £2 specifically for that purpose.

**Competition Secretary’s report.**

Ray Elms reminded members that a written report had been sent by e-mail and that spare hard-copies were now available. He drew the meeting’s attention to the winners and runners-up in each of the three competitions as follows:

* Eileen Harding Handicap Cup – Winners Chris Baldock and Sue Phillips, runners-up Mike Forward and Keith Phillips
* Marjory Cox Plate – Winners Colin Ladle and Sonya Nesbitt, runners-up Mike Forward and Keith Phillips
* Robin Sutton Trophy - Winners Sue Phillips and Janet Ladle, runners-up Chris Baldock and Ken Bowater

It was agreed that the competition trophies would be presented at the Xmas Party where, the Chairman advised, we would be in a suitable room.

Existing holders of cups and trophies were asked to return them to the Chairman as soon as possible so that engraving could be arranged.

**Chairman’s report**

Chris thanked the co-members of the committee and others who had helped in the smooth running of the Club over the year.

He drew members attention to the club web-site where weekly results were published, and which was now being used more to promote and advertise the club, including giving details of lessons.

Chris said that there were currently 16 playing club members.

Chris felt that the venue at the RBL was serving us well, at no cost to the club. He believed that the RBLstaff were trying hard to meet our needs. Members commented that the bar facility was good, especially not having to make our own tea/coffee, and the availability of free parking across the road was beneficial.

After some questions about lessons and potential new members, (covered below), the Chairman closed his report to the general agreement of the meeting.

**Matters Arising from all Reports**

Sonya referred to the advertising costs and asked how useful the advertising had been, particularly in regard to getting students for the Beginners Lessons. She was pleasantly surprised that 12 students were attending the course. Ray said that about half of them had been drawn in by word of mouth by Sue Phillips. The rest had been attracted by adverts which had been placed in shops, magazines and Corsham shopping precinct. Ray said that the adverts had yielded best results in the couple of weeks before the course started, with several enquiries then.

Sonya asked whether the current RBL venue could accommodate 12 new members if all the students joined the Club. Chris said he hoped that they would join and become regular players. If so, he was confident that we could fit in the extra 3 playing tables.

**Election of Committee**

The Chairman advised that, in the absence of any other candidates, all current members of the committee were willing to continue in office. There being no other volunteers, he invited the meeting to re-elect the committee en-masse. This was proposed by Sonya Nesbitt, seconded by Anita Baldock and unanimously agreed by the members present.

**Any Other Business**

1. The Chairman reminded members that the “Xmas” Party would be held on 20 January 2016 at the Foxham Inn. The meal costs would be paid by the Club; but members attending would have to meet their own drinks costs. Menus would be available in the next couple of weeks and issued, where possible, by e-mail. Menu decisions would need to be returned before Christmas. It was noted that all members, except Roy and Sonya, had e-mail addresses.
2. Ray Elms asked whether all members present were happy to continue the current arrangement of £2 Table Money so that the 2016 Xmas Party would again be free. There was general assent to this. The Chairman said that it would perhaps be better to consider the “Xmas Party” as the Annual Trophy Presentation event.

There being no further business, and members being keen to play bridge, the Chairman thanked all members present and closed the meeting at 7.26pm.

Signed

Chris Baldock (Chairman) Date