



MINUTES OF THE REMOTE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 30 JUNE 2024 COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM

Present: Mark Goddard (Chairman), Julia Staniforth (Secretary), Roger Stock (Treasurer), Keith Spencer (Chief TD), Shirley Ashtari, Clare Batten, Phil Dale, Wendy Dixon, David Dunford, Elizabeth Dunford, Lloyd Eagling, David Flacks, Lesley Foreman, Chris Frost, Rosemary Gunn, Jane Hall, Ewa Hardwick, Richard Harris, Bernard Hill, Val Hill, Jane Holdrick, Di Jackson, Len Jackson, Margaret Lawman, Jenny Leggott, Paul Royle, Maciej Lejman, Gerry McCormack, Louise Skull, Mel Shepherd, Ken Smith, Pat Storer, Dave Treharne, Elizabeth Walker, Sue Wright and Stan Zygdlo.

1) Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to what was the first face to face AGM since 2019 and that the attendance was the highest in memory and greatly appreciated. Apologies were duly recorded from: Michael Gyles, Jane Hill and John Hill.

2) Minutes of last AGM

The minutes were agreed as a correct record for publication on the website.

3) Matters arising from the minutes

An enquiry was made in respect of item 11 relating to the inputting of results from the league of eight matches by team captains in place of the league secretary. It was confirmed that the matter had been considered but it was felt the current system should remain.

A message of appreciation was extended to Jane Hall for the prompt uploading of results which made it easier for clubs to monitor player sessions.

4) Chair's report

The Chair reported that the overall position of bridge within the county remained good and on a par with national trends. Based on data received from the EBU for player sessions in April and May there was a slight increase in player sessions from 2023 however a comparison of a full year's data would provide a more accurate comparison.

There had been a focus on providing bridge for all levels with a mix of online and face to face with the Friday Cup being held for the first time at Mansfield Mechanics Bridge club. All events were free to Nottinghamshire members and venues around the county would continue to be sourced for face to face events. A message of appreciation was extended to Shirley Ashtari and Keith Spencer for organising these events. Jane Hall was also thanked for administering the leagues of eight with Nottingham Bridge Club again representing the county in the Garden Cities regional finals and had narrowly missed qualifying for the national final finishing fourth in the Midland section. Forty eight players had represented the county in the Midland Counties league with the A team winning four out of seven matches. The Chairman had provided briefing sessions after each county match and had also presented a number of training seminars throughout the year which had been very well received but with limited numbers attending some sessions.

A one day green point event was being arranged at Spondon in September and Clare Batten was thanked for leading the organisation of the event.

On closing his report the Chairman thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for their support and outlined that he was stepping down as Chairman due to personal commitments.

There were no questions relating to the report.

5) Treasurers report

The treasurer outlined that following the previous year's AGM a Reserve Policy had been agreed as five years of annual expenditure and reserves were now in line with this.

It was explained that an adjustment had been made to the 2022/23 accounts to take into account minor expenditure pertaining the season's league of eight competition which had been paid in the current year and had been agreed by the Independent Examiner. The current year's accounts demonstrated an overall loss of £2,422 which had been funded from the reserves and was larger than anticipated due in part to funding two members to attend a county director's course.

The following questions were raised:

Q: Would it be possible to itemise the costs of the county competitions in future accounts?

A: The costs were outlined for the current year and this could be considered.

Q: What costs were incurred for county matches?

A: There had been two face to face matches and in addition there were Realbridge and UMS costs.

Q: Why had the Reserve Policy been set at such a high level as two years was more usual?

A: At the time it was not clear what annual levels of expenditure would be and it was felt there should be sufficient to ensure the county could continue. It was explained that prior to the pandemic an amount of income had been received from Green Point events and UMS.

The policy was subject to an annual review by the Executive Committee.

The treasurer concluded his report by denoting that the Independent Examiner (John Rolph) had approved the accounts and these were recommended and duly adopted.

6) Appointment of an Independent Examiner

The treasurer proposed that John Rolph be re-appointed as the External Examiner.

7) Approval of EBU UMS Fees for 2025/26

The proposed fees in line with the previous year of no club affiliation fee and £0.04 UMS were agreed.

8) Election of Committee

The following were duly elected to the committee:

Clare Batten (Chairman)

Julia Staniforth (Secretary)

Roger Stock (Treasurer)

Keith Spencer

Shirley Ashtari

Chris Frost

Jane Hall

Mel Shepherd

David Treharne

Sue Wright

Mark Goddard offered to continue as county captain and this was agreed.

9) Proposed Minor Amendments to the Constitution

The Secretary had proposed minor amendments to the timescales relating to the AGM for submission of nominations to serve on the Executive Committee and receipt of items for resolution to enable a period of one week to be allowed between receipt and publication.

A member asked for clarification of the timescales and this was outlined. It was also suggested that the constitution required further amendments and it may be more appropriate for all changes to be incorporated at the same time.

A vote took place but in accordance with the constitution less than two thirds of those present were in favour and the motion was lost.

10) Election of EBU Shareholders – Nominees: Keith Spencer and Julia Staniforth

The Shareholders were duly elected.

11) Members' Motion Relating to Funding only of Players Whose Primary Allegiance was Nottinghamshire

Shirley Ashtari explained that it was felt that county funds for players representing the county in national events should be restricted to those whose county of allegiance was Nottinghamshire. It was pointed out that a small number of members had dual county membership by virtue of requesting a secondary membership and that these members may contribute through UMS payments regularly but had chosen to retain an alternative county as their county of allegiance.

A vote took place and the motion was carried.

12) Items Raised by Members

No further items were raised.

13) Date of the Next Annual General Meeting

On closing the meeting the Chairman again thanked members for attending the event and the support given over the past year.

The Executive Committee would determine the details for the next AGM.