

# Minutes of Cambs. and Hunts. Contract Bridge Association AGM

held at Dry Drayton Bridge Club on Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 6.45pm

## Committee Present:

Chris Jagger (CJ)    Chairman  
David Man            Treasurer  
Paul Bond            Secretary  
Penny Riley          Membership and Minutes Secretary

### 1. Apologies for absence

Simon Barb, Mike Bradley, Gladys Gittins, Trevor King, Chris Larlham, Barbara Lavender

### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 at the Thursday BC

These had been circulated to Cambs. & Hunts. affiliated Clubs and displayed on the County website.

### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

### 4. Acceptance of the Minutes

Proposed by Peter Grice, seconded by Ken Riley and carried nem. con.

### 5. Reports from Officers

- a) **Chairman:** Chris Jagger welcomed everyone and thanked all the Committee who helped to run Cambs. and Hunts. events. He explained that the Committee was appointed by Club delegates who in turn were appointed by their Clubs.
- b) **Treasurer:** David Man distributed a sheet (attached) of the accounts for 2015-2016 audited by Peter Grice. The County has a positive balance of £5658 which, is £18 less than last year but is after a payment of £500 to Cambridge Bridge Club towards the purchase of, and County use of, 24 Bridgemes. The overall loss of £168 was a small fraction of expenditure and not causing concern. There were no questions and the accounts were accepted nem.con.
- c) **Secretary:** Paul Bond thanked Dry Drayton and their Chairman Brian Copping, for hosting this AGM. He then thanked those who had organised County events. David Collier and Mike Clydesdale for the County Individual, Peter Grice for the County Pairs, Terry Otterman for the Novice Pairs, David Man and Penny Riley for the Jubilee Swiss Pairs. There was a special thanks to C&HCBA member Fred Langford, who, on his own initiative independent of Club and County, ran a very successful six week Intermediate Course last autumn for players wishing to join EBU affiliated duplicate clubs. Thanks were also expressed to Colin Sills for developing and updating the County website. Finally, he said that we had donated our two Green Point event-day EBU allocations to Suffolk to enable them to organise the East

Anglian Bridge Weekend in March in exchange for our share of the profits, amounting to £356.

**d) Membership Secretary:** Penny Riley reported that there were 816 EBU members registered through Clubs affiliated to Cambs and Hunts. Of these, 493 are full members, having played at least 12 times since April 2015. In reply to Tony Oram, Penny said that the total numbers were the same as last year but that 20 more were full members this year. There are also 25 dual members who are registered through another County and pay £3.00 to join C & H so that they can play in our events.

**e) Club Captain:** Chris Larlham was not present but, for the record, sent the following report.

The County failed to qualify for the Tollemache Cup, finishing fourth out of nine, a rare event.

In the Eastern Counties League, Hertfordshire won all three divisions.

C & H were 2/8 in div A, 4/7 in div B and 7/8 in div C.

In the C & H League Peterborough One won Div 1, Peterborough Three won Div 2, and Div 3 is not yet completed.

**6. Subscriptions for 2016/17** to remain the same at 8p per session per person.

Proposed by Peter Grice, seconded by Colin Sills, carried nem.con.

**7. Appointment of Auditor** for 2016/17.

Peter Grice was proposed by Ken Riley and seconded by Mike Clydesdale. The proposal was carried nem.con.

**8. AOB**

**i)** CJ announced that three members of the committee were retiring, Chris Larlham, Paul Bond, and himself. A fourth, David Man, was changing role.

Elections for Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Club Captain and other positions would take place at the first committee meeting following this AGM.

**ii) Nomination of Chris Larlham to become a Vice-President of C & H CBA.**

CJ outlined the valuable work that Chris Larlham had done for the County.

Over 26 years he had played in and organised teams for the Eastern Counties League and the Tollemache. He also organised and kept records for the County League of club teams. As a practising solicitor he had also provided legal advice when problems arose within the Association and worked to apply for charitable status of bridge clubs. CJ proposed Chris Larlham as a Vice-President. The proposal was seconded by Paul Bond and carried nem. con.

- iii) **A proposal for Chris Jagger to become a Vice-President** was put forward by Tony Oram who said that CJ had run the County Association with great expertise for 26 years. The proposal was seconded by Colin Sills. (Later, during the AGM, Paul Bond noted that this proposal needs to be put before the Management Committee for nomination validation.) **(Committee Action)**
  
- iv) **Proposal for a change to the Constitution** (see attached document from Simon Barb). Unfortunately Simon was unable to attend this meeting and so could not present his case in person. Colin Sills expressed the view that it is more democratic to have a larger number of members voting at an AGM compared to a maximum of 16-18 delegates at a committee meeting. There was a short discussion regarding the merits of changing the method of electing Officers from committee voting to an open vote at an AGM. The majority of those present did not think that the AGM would provide a balanced representation from all the clubs. (The County AGM is held at a different club venue each year and those present are predominantly of that club. Voting might be biased.) It was concluded that, for our small County without a central venue, it was better to have delegates from each of 14 clubs voting for the Officers at a committee meeting. The proposal to retain this current method of voting for Officers was carried by a 20+ majority to one against.
  
- v) Trevor King had written to propose that the **method of selecting teams for the Garden Cities** revert to a one day event to be held at an undetermined venue. The knockout system that operated this year only attracted two teams, partly due to an oversight in organisation and partly due to difficulty in organising matches for teams of eight. The proposal was approved nem. con. for recommendation to the new Committee. **(Committee Action)**
  
- vi) Peter Last presented a request from North Cambridge BC for the Tournaments Organiser to make it clear on the website which County Heats held in Clubs had to be open to all County members, and which could be restricted, by the relevant Club, to its members. **(Committee Action)**
  
- vii) David Collier raised the point that **this year the County Pairs Final clashed with the Portland Pairs** and a significant number of people would have liked to play in both events. Also that it should not clash with the National Pairs Heats held in March. CJ replied, (during the rush at the end of the meeting,) to explain that it was difficult to avoid clashes when we publish our calendar early only to discover the EBU moves the dates of some of its events. A point for the new committee to consider. **(Committee Action)**

**viii)** Peter Last gave a vote of thanks to all four Officers who had given almost 100 years of service between them to the County Association. Penny presented them with a bottle of wine each on behalf of the members.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.

P.Riley

17<sup>th</sup> May 2016