**Avon Contract Bridge Association**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 25th June 2017 at Bristol Bridge Club**

**1 Present**: Peter Shelley, David Jones, Mike Short, Sue O’Hara, Graham Hartley plus those playing in the in the Handicapped Pairs

**2. Apologies**: Suzy Lawson, Andrew Urbanski, Bernice Horseman, Chris Frew, Anne Huddleston, Irene Robinson, Mike Huggins

**3. Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters Arising**

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Jan Duncan Seconded by Mike Short.

There were no matters arising.

**4. Chairman’s Report**

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He also thanked Bristol Bridge Club for hosting the meeting and Annie for the excellent tea.

Peter highlighted all the hard work done by the Committee this year, particularly in relation to the new Green Point event held last month. He made particular mention of Robert Glass and Larry Bennett, standing down as Vice Chairman and Chief Tournament Director respectively, after many years of service to the county.

Peter said that we had run our usual programme of events this year and that we were pleased to see 19 teams playing in the 3 divisions of the league; we would love to see a further increase in the number of teams, and members were encouraged to join a team.

The major development this year was the new Green Point event in May 2017 at the University of the West of England (UWE). The event attracted an encouraging 50 tables each day. Good feedback has been received on the event, and we made a small profit from it. We hope to run a similar event in 2018, but we await confirmation of the availability of the UWE venue.

Finally, Peter explained that the Committee now had only 5 members and would welcome input and help from any member with an interest in the running of county bridge.

**5 Treasurer’s Report**

The receipts for the year were 3.5k and payments 3.8k resulting in a small deficit of 0.3k

This was the first year after ceasing the joint Green Point Event with Wiltshire which had been in place for a number of years.

It was decided by the Avon Committee to hold our own event which was held in May 2017. This fell into the following financial period 17/18 so the accounts for 16/17 reflect a performance without the support of a green point event.

The provisional result for our green point event is a surplus of receipts over costs of 0.9k.

This demonstrates the importance of the need to maintain such an annual event.

The number of tables for our first year was very encouraging with 50 in the pairs and 49 in the teams. The costs, with the exception of the P2P element, are relatively fixed so for every additional table by which we can improve in future years would represent an additional £ 80 surplus of receipts over payments per table per event.

Receipts are up on ACBA / Western League but so are the costs.

This reflects whether teas are provided or not year on year and if events are held in the week at the BBC or at the weekend and the number of home/away matches in the Western League.

The current account is high at 13.3k but this reflects the payments taken in advance for the green point event. These receipts totalled 4.8k and are shown as deferred Receipts on the Balance Sheet.

These receipts will reflect in the 17/18 results.

A motion to approve the accounts was proposed by Graham Hartley and seconded by Keith Rayford and carried.

**6 Tournament Secretaries Report**

Avon has run a programme of events this year for which the Leagues and Knock Out are the flagship events .We had 3 divisions in the County League with a total entry of 19 teams (an increase of 4 teams on the previous season which also included several new teams) and the County Knock Out which had a somewhat disappointing entry of 8 teams. We ran the consolation Knock Out Plate event for the first round losers.

The other events which we ran were similar to last season: The County Pairs which had qualifiers at the two main clubs totalling 13 tables and a 6 table final held on a Sunday this year for the first time for several years. The Mixed Pairs (14 tables) and Ladies’ & Men’s’ Pairs (13 tables in total) and Non Expert Pairs (14 tables) were single session events held midweek.

The Championship Teams (which incorporates the Handicap Teams) was again run as a qualifier and a separate 7 team final, held midweek, the entry for this was 14 teams.

The Garden Cities trophy attracted an entry of 3 teams of eight for the county qualifier.

Andrew Urbanski was thanked for running the Western League.

I would like to record some successes of Avon members this season in national events:-

In English Knock Out teams events

* Crockfords( English Teams ) : Peter Shelley, Brian Goalby, Steve Turner & Robert Covill have reached the 5th round ( last 16 ) .
* National Inter club Knock Out : Tim Brierley, Graham Hartley, Chris Dixon & David Jones have reached the Quarter Final .
* Seniors Teams : Mike Letts, Andrew Urbanski, Peter Shelley ,Tony Gammon & Brian Goalby have reached the Semi Finals .
* Portland Pairs : Cathy & Andy Smith finished in 2nd place and Sue O'Hara & Nelson Stephens in 10th place in the English Mixed Pairs from a national entry of 312 pairs .
* Corwen Trophy(English Inter County Pairs ) : Graham Hartley & Tim Brierley came in 4th place in a field of 100 pairs.
* National Pairs : David Jones ( with Miles Cowling ) came 5th in the 50 pair English National pairs final.
* Torquay Congress : Steve Turner had a successful weekend ( with Rod Marks of Hampshire finishing 2nd in the Swiss Pairs(100 pairs ) and 3rd in the Swiss Teams (54 teams ).
* Bristol Bridge team representing Avon reached the National Final of the Garden Cities teams of 8. The Team comprised Andrew Urbanski, Mike Letts, Steve Turner ,Robert Covill ,Graham Hartley ,Rob Lawy ,Trevor Ward & David Jones and in an earlier round Cathy & Andy Smith and Brian Goalby.
* Avon Congress University of the West of England, Bristol.
* Swiss Pairs: a tie for 1st place between Huw Oliver & Tony Gammon and Cathy & Andy Smith, 50 tables .The Swiss Teams had 49 tables and the team including Mike Best, Tony Disley & Phil Felman finished in 2nd place.
* Tollemache : the team finished in a disappointing 5th place in their 9 team group but Tim Brierley & Graham Hartley were 3rd in the butler ranking for the 40 pairs in the group .
* Ralph Smith & Steve Tomlinson represented Somerset in the Tollemache Final this year.
* Chris Dixon non playing captain and David Jones coach to the English Open team at the world championships last September in Poland where the team reached the Quarter Final losing to the Netherlands who went on to win the title.

**7 Motions to be discussed**

None were presented

**8 Election of Officers and Committee**

The following Officers and Committee Members were re-elected:

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| **Position** | **Name** | **Proposed by** | **Seconded by** |
| Chairman | Peter Shelley | Gareth Evans | Jan Duncan |
| Vice Chair | Vacancy |  |  |
| Treasurer | Mike Short | Daisy Bickley | Sandra Cooper |
| Secretary | Sue O’Hara | Mike Short | Hilda Ball |
| Tournament Secretary | David Jones | Daisy Bickley | Pat Clowes |
| Committee Member | Suzy Lawson | Gareth Evans | Mike Short |

**9 Any Other Business**

Sue O’Hara raised the issue of having a fixed night for league matches. This would be a Wednesday at Bristol Bridge Club, probably once a month; with the option of rearranging matches if necessary.

Gareth Evans spoke against the proposal as he would never be able to play on a Wednesday as he works that night. He also thought it would have an adverse effect on attendance at West of England Bridge Club. Keith Rayford, Margaret Randell and Daisy Bickley all spoke against the proposal as they were happy with the flexibility of the current system.

Jan Duncan and Hilda Ball thought it would be a good idea as it would be much easier for captains if they knew the dates of matches.

Robert Gregory would like the numbers in teams to be increased to 8. Andrew Smith stated that this would reduce the number of teams in the league.

Graham Hartley commented that the first division was too big this year with 7 teams. He proposed having 4 leagues with 5 in each.

No decisions were made and the views expressed will be considered by the committee.

**10 Presentations of Trophies and Prizes**

Trophies and Prizes for the winners of our events were awarded to those present:

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| **Competition** | **Trophy/Prize Winners** |
| Mens’ Pairs | Steve Tomlinson & Ralph Smith |
| Ladies’ Pairs | Margaret Randell & Gill Davies |
| Mixed Pairs | Mike Huggins & Irene Robinson |
| Championship Pairs | Tim Brierley & Graham Hartley |
| Championship Teams | Tim Brierley & Graham Hartley, Trevor Ward & David Jones |
| League Division I | Tim Brierley & Graham Hartley, Trevor Ward, Rob Lawy, Suzy Lawson & Mike Elliott |
| League Division II | Marguerite Lihou, Oliver Espitalier-Noel, Carol Gregg, Deborah Ogilvie, John Brandon-Joyce & Vanessa O'Callaghan |
| League Division III | Richard Blacknell, Gillian Davies, Muriel Bailey, Sue O'Hara, Gerry Gowling & Mary McKenzie |
| Knock-out | Tim Brierley, Graham Hartley, David Jones, Chris Dixon & Rob Lawy |
| Knock-out Plate | Huw Oliver, Eric Cummings, Ceri Pierce, Tony Gammon, Brian Goalby, Nelson Stephens & Peter Shelley |
| Non-Expert Pairs | Margaret & Peter Randell |

**There was a vote of thanks for the Chairman, Peter Shelley.**