



# DONCASTER BRIDGE CLUB

35 BENNETTHORPE, DONCASTER DN2 6AA

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2010 COMMENCING at 6.00pm

**Members Present:** D Dunsby, S Dunsby, B Hardey, P Foster, G Foster, D Butler, M Laws, B Laws, G Burdett, L Burdett, J Hale, P Stocken, D Gannon, J Wilkes, J Taylor, B Stones, M Stones, M Chapman, S Chapman, A Clark, J Elliott, M Mills, M Forshaw, B Brown, G Atkinson, L Atkinson, B Boaler, D Aykroyd, D Maxey, M Hays, V Jones, P Swindells, S Fowler, M Hill, M Emmas, F Higginson, J Scrimshaw, S Heath, K Davis, R Rimmington, P Fowler.

**Apologies From:** C Kingston, S Brown, A Ellse, R Forshaw, J Tate, S Tate, D Beresford, B Parkinson, G Taylor

1. **Minutes of the last AGM** were accepted as a true record. Spelling errors noted as was the omission of D Gannon's name from the list of those present.

2. **Matters Arising:**

P Stocken re-stated his offer, made at last year's AGM, of a £1000 donation towards the cost of a Duplimate system. He explained the benefits of such a system and the reasons behind his decision to make the offer. DD thanked PS for his kind offer and reassured PS that the matter of the club acquiring a Duplimate system was under consideration at Committee and was a part of the club's long-term improvement strategy. PS left details of two types of dealing machines with DB along with costs and appropriate contact numbers.

3. **Chairman's Report:**

David Dunsby, the outgoing Chairman, spoke of family matters for some time. He then thanked the many members who had contributed to the smooth operation of the club this year; BH for his work as treasurer, PF as Membership Secretary, DB as Webmaster, VJ and PS for their work on the building and gardens, SC for her work in-house and others including his family for their support of the club.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

- (a) BH referred to the income and expenditure accounts at 31 December 2009 against the accounts at 31 December 2008.

- (i) Income: There had been very little change in income from subscriptions except the reducing income in line with a fall in membership. Income from table money had remained constant. Bar purchases had reduced by approximately £1000 and this had helped towards increasing overall income.

- (ii) Expenditure: Expenditure on gas, electric and water had seen a minimal increases this year and general repairs and renewals had been kept to a minimum and savings of approximately £1000 had been made by work carried out in-house by VJ and PS. Loan interest paid had fallen by £2400 in the year due to interest rate reduction.
- (b) With the Alliance and Leicester Business Instant Current Account at £8700 the club was now able to implement planned improvements and SC, PS, VJ, PF, and DB had already been involved in planning and implementing 'phase 1' of an ongoing programme of improvements within the club.
- (c) BH reported the three main issues related to club income are:
- (i) the fall in membership numbers. The club is actively seeking to address this issue mainly through the implementation of planned improvements to the club's facilities.
  - (ii) The impact of Pay-to-Play which is to be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.
  - (iii) The number of times members play.

P Stocken explained that the P2P scheme would cost 29p (EBU) + 5p (YCBA) = 34p per play.

M Emmas queried the gross assets figure provided in the accounts, which showed as negative values. B Brown explained that the accounts served at the meeting provided a 'balance sheet' and as such, 'gross assets' were not shown. BH explained that the club's main asset, which was not listed in the accounts, was the club's premises.

## **5. Membership Secretary's Report**

- (a) PF reported the membership currently numbered 202. This figure is about 20 fewer than was achieved during the membership year to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010. PF expected this number to increase and by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 he expected the figure to slightly exceed last year's due to the progression from classes to full membership, the recovery of a few re-joining late, and newcomers joining.
- (b) PF explained that maintaining membership was the life-blood of the club and D Dunsby and S Dunsby had been central in attracting, teaching, encouraging and seeking to retain new members, most of whom had come as beginners. PF made an appeal that future committees recognise the need to continue this work and he believed that it needed a specifically defined role in the strategic management of membership.
- (c) PF reported that we expected the incoming Pay-to-Play scheme to affect membership levels. He reminded members that subject to playing in a minimum of 12 qualifying events per year in an affiliated club members became eligible to receive 6 issues of English Bridge and the EBU diary each year.
- (d) PF did ask that members actively encourage others to play and to do everything possible to make new members feel welcome and valued.

## **6. Match Secretary's Report**

- (a) G Foster reported this winter we had 5 teams playing in the Yorkshire League this winter. All had been successful in holding their own in their respective divisions. GF thanked all who had represented the club in the league.
- (b) Refreshments had been provided by home team members and keeping the refreshments simple had worked well. She thanked everyone who had cooperated in this arrangement.
- (c) Due to poor weather conditions matches on 2 Sundays had to be cancelled and problems were often experienced in rearranging re-matches. Team captains were thanked for their efforts in finally making arrangements and getting teams together.
- (d) GF made an appeal for more members to offer to play in the league and she said a list would soon be placed on the notice board for people to sign up to playing next winter.

## **7. Congress Secretary's Report**

B Stones reported that the number of tables achieved at the congress teams event was down on the previous year. This a had been successful event and BS thanked S Chapman and the pairs that played for ensuring a successful event.

## **8. Election of Chairman**

D Maxey asked for clarification regarding the Treasurer post should B Hardey become Chairman. BH explained a willingness to continue as Treasurer should he not be elected but also to continue in this role until a new Treasurer was elected, should he be elected as Chairman.

G Atkinson provided the meeting with his vision for the development of the club. P Foster spoke to the meeting on behalf of B Hardey. D Maxey and L Burdett were nominated and accepted as Returning Officers. The meeting returned B Hardey duly elected as Chairman of the Committee.

## **9. New Chairman's Address**

- (a) B Hardey addressed the meeting by describing his vision for the club – a vision in which a team approach would ensure continuing development of the club. BH gave final thanks to the outgoing Chairman, David Dunsby and his wife Sheila.
- (b) **Election of Officers of the Committee and Management Committee Members**  
BH read out the names of those proposed and seconded as Officers of the Committee and Management Committee Members and asked that they be elected to serve en bloc. The proposal was unanimously approved.

**10. Delegation of the Determination of the Club Membership Fee to the Management Committee**

P Foster addressed the meeting explaining the reason for this proposal. P Stocken proposed the motion, seconded by J Staniforth. The motion was unanimously approved.

**11. Nominations for Honorary Membership**

P Foster proposed that Sheila Dunsby become an Honorary Member of the club. The proposal was unanimously approved.

**12. Appointment of Auditor for 2010/11**

J Hale proposed the re-election of I Johnson as Auditor for 2010/11. Seconded by B Stones. The proposal was unanimously approved.

**13. Items for Discussion/ Referral to the Management Committee**

There were no items for discussion or referral to the Management Committee.

**14. Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of March 2011, at 6.00pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.25pm