

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FARNHAM BRIDGE CLUB HELD
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, WEST STREET ON FRIDAY 24th APRIL 2009**

Mac Derwig opened the meeting with the news that Guy Neal had sadly died a few days before this AGM. Guy had served on the committee since 1988, including long periods as treasurer, vice-chairman and chairman. He had made an outstanding contribution to the club, both as committee member and also as a director, for over 20 years and will be sorely missed.

1 APOLOGIES: Jenny Ashby, Rick Assad, John Bryant, Barrie Cavell, Pam Darlington, Gordon Clarke, Christine Dean, Anthony Dollard, Elaine and Ron Ewins, Michael Hall, Margaret Kirton, Neil Morley, Ann Pedrocchi, Pam Powles, Ann Thurston.

2 MINUTES: The minutes of the previous AGM held on 25th April 2008 were accepted.

3 MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mac Derwig thanked Rachel Haver and her team of regular helpers including Brigitte Ebert, Mary O'Connor, Gerald Searle and Inga McKenzie for providing the refreshments on club evenings. He thanked Jenny Garner and the team of scorers for their timely issuing of the results and Richard Currie for providing the duplicated boards each week. He confirmed that Paul Shannon's directors' rota was very successful and thanked Paul for administering it. He remarked that the appeal arising from the results of the Benzimra final was conducted thoroughly and according to EBU rules and he therefore regrets that one of those affected, David Lofts, has since resigned from the Club. There had also been one recent case of an altercation between a member and the director, after which the member concerned had been asked to apologise.

5 SECRETARY'S REPORT: Peter Haver reported that we have had about 10 new members this year and the membership has increased to 184. He said that, wherever possible, the committee would like to use emails as a means of communicating with our members, since this is an efficient and effective mechanism for distributing information. He therefore urged all those members who have not already done so to provide him with their email addresses. Finally, he informed the meeting that the Council had proposed to start charging us for the time taken to set up and take down the tables before and after each club session. However, we had agreed a compromise whereby the caretaker would continue to set up the tables but we (the club members) would be responsible for putting them away at the end of each session. Thus, he asked that from now on, at the end of each club session, one member at each table (normally North) would be responsible for ensuring that the table was returned to the store and the four chairs were stacked at the side of the main hall. Able bodied members were also asked to put away any surplus tables and chairs not being used on that particular evening.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT: Keith McKenzie distributed the Club's Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 5 April 2009. He reported that there was a surplus of £1280 over the year but this was due primarily to the income generated from the Andrew Robson seminar plus the additional table fees from the Learning Section. He expected that, next year, we may either just break even or suffer a small overall deficit. He confirmed that the membership and table fees can remain unchanged for now but that these would almost certainly increase when the EBU Pay to Play scheme is introduced in April 2010. In response to a question from the floor, Keith confirmed that the Council had given us a rebate for the evenings early this year when the hall was cold and when we had cancelled because of the snow. Mac Derwig thanked Richard Currie for auditing the accounts. He then reported that this year's Sidney Chishick Charity Swiss Pairs had raised £650 for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and that the winner of the trophy, Erica Currie, had generously donated a further £350 to make it up to £1000.

7 MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: Richard Currie reported that the club entered two teams into the Surrey teams of eight competition but they came 4th and 5th out of 10. The club entered 6 teams into the NICKO competition but all were eliminated in early rounds. In other Surrey competitions: Margaret Kirton and Marie Thomson won the Ladies Pairs, Penny Macleod and Rob Cookson won the County Pairs Plate, Margaret Kirton, Shirley Roberts, Penny Macleod, Jane Morton won the Ladies Teams and Gerald Searle and Kath Street won the Senior Pairs.

8 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE: Richard Currie has stepped down as Match Secretary and Mary O'Connor has retired from the committee. Mac Derwig proposed and Peter Haver seconded Mike O'Donnell for the role of Match Secretary. Peter Haver proposed and John Moore seconded Barrie Cavell as a committee member. These proposals were then approved by a substantial majority of the members. All the other current committee members had confirmed they were willing to continue and they were re-elected by the meeting en bloc, as follows: Bob Evans (President), Frances Trebble (Vice-president), Mac Derwig (Chairman), Paul Shannon (Vice-Chairman), Peter Haver (Secretary), Keith McKenzie (Treasurer), Richard Currie, Jenny Garner, John Moore, Mary Nolan, Patrick Hodson.

9 PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES:

The President, Bob Evans, presented the trophies:

Benzimra Cup	Sara Gibbon & Patrick Hodson (not present)
Sylvia Rose Cup	Margaret & Paul Kirton, Shirley Roberts, Marie Thomson, Tony Philpott
Sylvia Rose Plate	This is a new trophy, introduced by the Committee, to replace the former Spooner Shield, to be awarded to the winners of the consolation Sylvia Rose league: John Moore, Steve Crawford, Sara Gibbon, Geraldine Robertson
Delft Cup	Varda Derwig
Laker Trophy	Keith McKenzie
Committee Trophy	Patrick Hodson (not present)
Sidney Chishick Trophy	Erica Currie, John Bryant, John & Mary Davis
Presidents Salver	Wendy Miller, Richard Currie, Tim Lighting, Jenny Garner

10 LEARNING SECTION REPORT: Paul Shannon reported that Douglas Wright had begun the Learning Section in September last year and had run four tranches of six lessons each. There were 14 students in the last session and numbers are expected to increase. The success of these sessions is due primarily to Douglas's efforts, with support from some other club members and from Richard Currie for providing pre-dealt hands. Paul expressed his thanks to all these members. He confirmed that a vibrant learning section is an excellent potential source of new members for the club and, more generally, provides wider publicity for the club.

Paul said that he would welcome feedback from club members and that there were three areas in which they could help: generally to advertise and promote the benefits of bridge amongst their circle of friends, to take part in Minibridge (an easy way for children and adult learners to learn) and, on Saturday 9 May, to support Douglas's bridge sessions at the Community Arts Festival at Farnham Maltings. Regarding Minibridge, it was hoped that the club would set aside one club evening for a Minibridge pairs event to appeal to both novices and members alike. The meeting expressed their thanks and congratulations to Douglas for his work in making the Learning Section a success.

11 SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS EVENTS: Mac said that this was on the agenda because some members had queried whether we should hold as many Simultaneous Pairs events as we now do, since some may not consider them to be worth the extra £3 table money. Joyce Brown asked why the table fee is rounded up and alleged that other clubs pay much less for these events. Keith responded that the fee had been rounded up only for the last BGB event. On a show of hands, 9 other members agreed that the fee should be rounded down and Mac said that this matter will be discussed by the committee.

12 EBU PAY TO PLAY: Mac confirmed that Surrey CBA have decided not to add any county contribution to the EBU Pay to Play fee. He said that we are awaiting the details of the Club Agreement from the EBU and we cannot realistically do anything until the committee has considered this. After that, we will need to consult club members and will probably hold an Extraordinary General Meeting specifically to discuss the matter.

13 AOB: None.