

**Minutes of a GBU AGM meeting held at the Links
at 12h00 Saturday 20th January 2024**

Present

Deirdre Ingersent GBU Chair
Tor Meyer GBU Treasurer
Bernard Donde GBU Member

Floor

Tas Nestoridis
Val Bloom JBC
Neville Eber
Helen Kruger Wed PM at The Links Club
Roz Bernstein
Rob Stephens The Links Club Manager
Betty Ravenscroft Northern Bridge Club/Orchards BBO
Gail O'Shea

Apologies

James Grant GBU Secretary
Jackie Solovei GBU Member
Devan Chetty GBU Member
Sheila Francis
Peta Feinstein The Links Chair

Welcome

Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the 2023 AGM Minutes.

Chairman's Report

Four current GBU Committee members were retiring - Deirdre, James, Jackie and Joel Harris. I would like to thank everyone most sincerely for serving with me and especially perhaps the advice I received from James, the fun I had with Joel and the friendship that I enjoyed with Jackie.

It is going to be a new era but we must recognize that BBO bridge, Real Bridge and face to face bridge must learn to exist happily together. I hope no complaints about the affiliation fees as they are lower than in many other sports and nothing paid in gets used for administration.

I have enjoyed all the many people I have come across and compiling the Newsletter, researching articles myself and asking others to contribute. I wish to thank everyone who took the trouble to ring me with either suggestions or compliments. Much appreciated.

Our face to face events went off well and the Mini Congress, the first event we had tried after Covid lasting three days, was well received and supported. However one planned all day Pairs Event for December was postponed due to a lack of entries.

There are now so many opportunities to play competitive bridge that I urge players to get a regular time slot in your weekly schedule set aside for bridge. The following face to face clubs are now functioning –

The Links Saturday Afternoon has reached 3 sections and has a good atmosphere. My thanks here must be given to Rob Stephens who oversees it all in a calm and efficient way (and thanks too for all the GBU events he has organised for us over the years), Peta Feinstein and Lotte Sorensen for their help with the lovely teas, Nicky Stephens for the computer work and the ever willing Links staff. Helen Kruger steps in when needed as the TD there.

Wednesday Afternoon with Helen Kruger has a faithful following of 8 - 10 tables.

Thursday Morning Supervised Bridge goes from strength to strength with often as many as 22 tables. This has been a great initiative from our top players and thanks to all players who volunteer regularly to do the tutoring.

Betty Ravenscroft is doing sterling work on the other side of town, now at the Blairgowrie Community Centre. She also has a once per month Teams event.

Benoni Northerns continues with a steady attendance of 8 - 10 tables. It is known as a friendly club with low attendance fees of R25 per session.

Friday Morning at The Links has started again too.

Many congratulations to all our Gauteng players who represented South Africa in Marrakesh this year. The most players we have had qualify in many a year!

Finally I would like to wish the incoming Committee everything of the best and hope they will bring fresh ideas to this card game we all enjoy so much. And of course I will still be at events.

Proposed: Roz Bernstein Seconded: Helen Kruger

Treasurer's Report

Tor stated that the GBU was still in a healthy financial position although there was a deficit for the year of R4952

Income

Subscriptions	R 26275	
Tournament Fees	R 35420	
Interest	R 19491	R 81186

Expenses

Catering	R 35950
Tournament Directors Fees	R 7000
Tournament Prizes	R 5950
Cleaning, Security, Gratuities	R 5177
Newsletter (monthly)	R 11350
Mentoring	R 3107

Entertainment	R3363	
Communication Costs	R 4084	
Website Maintenance	R 6000	
Stationery	R 524	
Bridgemate Fee	R2219	
Bank Charges	R 1414	R 86138

Deficit for the year **-R4952**
Bank balance as at 31 Dec

Current Account R24911
Investment Account R213519

Two queries were raised.

Bridgemate Fee should be listed as Score Bridge

Communication costs were queried by Roz Bernstein. Tor was not sure but agreed it must be followed up as to what exactly this expense was.

Proposed: Betty Ravenscroft

Seconded: Val Bloom

Election of Office bearers for 2024

The following nominations had been received.

SHEILA FRANCIS - nominated by two clubs, The Links and Northern Bridge Club

BERNARD DONDE - nominated by The Links

VAL BLOOM - nominated by The Links

TOR MEYER - nominated by the Wednesday Afternoon Club

DEVAN CHETTY - nominated by Benoni Northern

DUNCAN CRAGGS - nominated by Northern Bridge Club/ Orchards

These people were accepted by the meeting and were duly nominated for 2024. The various positions will be sorted out by the Committee itself. If it was felt another member was needed that person could be co-opted on as had happened in the past.

General

1. More entries needed for Sunday 28th all day Pairs.
2. Rob read out a thank you to Deirdre for her many years of service.
3. Betty Ravenscroft raised the matter of sponsorship. Possibly through an insurance company. Difficult to do. Can definitely provide advertising space but not much else can be guaranteed.
4. The shortage of TD's and the need for more people to do this and training courses to be set up.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.54pm