

**DEVON BRIDGE ASSOCIATION - NORTHERN SECTION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE 2021 AT 5 PM VIA ZOOM**

Northern Section Committee Members Present:

**Mrs E Nunn (EN) - Chairperson
Mr N Marsden (NM) - Treasurer
Mrs B Lloyd (BL) - Secretary
Mr R Watkins (RW) - Committee Member
Mrs J Munns (JM) - Committee Member
Mr S Rafferty (SR) - Committee Member**

Northern Section Members Attending:

**Mr R Carter (RC)
Mr A Coulstock (AC)
Mrs D Coulstock (DC)
Mrs P Gowland (PG)
Mr R Gowland (RG)
Mrs B Martin (BM)
Mr I Nunn (IN)
Mrs L Rafferty (LR)
Mrs C Ritzen (CR)
Mr J Wintle (JW)**

1. Welcome - EN welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Apologies

Mrs S Anoyrkatis, Mr D Hurrell, Mr S Munns, Mrs C Reid.

3. Chairman's report 2019-2020

EN said that 2019-2020 had been an extraordinary year - no face-to face bridge but thanks to NM and JM the Northern Section had a very successful on-line bridge club. Devon competitions have continued to be played on line and if one thing the pandemic has taught us is that we do not need to travel to competitions they can easily be played on line.

EN with NM, JM had attended the Devon Associations meetings held via zoom once a month but sometimes the Northern Section were over 50% of the committee - it is sad but the other Devon Sections are not so well represented and the Southern Section has folded.

Recently the North Devon Section organised a survey which had been sent to members via their club secretary. The results are online and members will have an opportunity to discuss the results later in the meeting.

EN thanked the committee and all the members of the section for all the work they have achieved during the past five years that she had been Chairperson. She was not seeking re-election as she felt it was time "to hang up her boots".

NM said on behalf of the committee and the members of the Northern Section a big thank you to EN for her commitment to the section during the past five years and asked IN to make a presentation of a bunch of flowers.

4. Treasurer's report

NM reported that the accounts had been scrutinised by Mrs Marjorie Higgins and at 30 April 2021 the current account had a balance of £1790.80 and the Reserve account £9552.66. The accounts had been sent to the Devon Bridge Association to put on their website. It was noted that the Congress and the Online Bridge set up by the Northern Section had both generated a profit.

RW asked how much profits had been generated by the Wednesday afternoon sessions. NM and JM advised that at the outset to break even 10+ tables were required but this had been reduced to 7/8 tables because Director's costs had been reduced.

At the present time there is around £400 profit from the online bridge sessions, which will be of help through the summer months when the weekly number of tables may reduce. Members from Exeter Bridge Club have asked if they could join the online Wednesday afternoon sessions as they were finding their numbers were reducing. The consensus was yes they could - the more the merrier.

RW asked if NM had encountered any problems receiving payments from members for the online sessions. NM reported that 30 members used on line banking, 7 sent cheques and 5 members had to be reminded that payments were due but soon paid so there was no problems.

Thank you to Mrs Marjorie Higgins for scrutinising the accounts - it is much appreciated by the Northern Section.

The accounts were proposed by RG and seconded by RW.

5. Election of Officers

**Treasurer Neil Marsden - Proposed by Jacqui Munns
Seconded by Ian Nunn**

**Chairperson Jacqui Munns - Proposed by Neil Marsden
Seconded by Elizabeth Nunn**

EN asked if there had been any other nominations put forward but none had been received. EN congratulated Jacqui and Neil.

6. Discussion on the results of the recent bridge survey.

EN said that it is normal practice to hand over to the new Chairperson but for this meeting only she would continue to lead.

EN asked JM to start the discussion by going through the results of the recent survey. Please note - A full breakdown of the survey can be found on the Northern Section web site.

At this stage there is no confirmed date for face-to-face play to resume. It is anticipated that 21 June will not be 'freedom day' with a date in July being considered. Full details of this are not expected until Monday 14 June. In view of this no firm arrangements can be made. It is agreed that once a date for full restrictions being lifted is confirmed that a meeting between the four EBU clubs would be arranged to work out a plan of action.

It was anticipated that online Bridge would continue but not to clash with another club. Enquiries are being made on the availability of the Roundswell Hall during the afternoons so that it could be considered for training or afternoon bridge sessions. It is noted that members do not like change and hence if changes were considered than it had to be in an organized manner with consultation among members. It is noted that the Northern Section has an ageing membership and everything must be done to encourage younger people to learn to play Bridge.

A suggestion was made to reduce the number of club committees. The example given was that the two Barnstaple clubs merging into one and the same for Braunton and Caen. It should be stressed that these are only suggestions.

7. Any other business.

CR said that the Barnstaple Hotel had been booked for the Congress in February 2022. The cost of accommodation would be the same as 2020. RC said that he and Ursula would have probably left the area by that time but were hoping to come back for the Congress weekend. RC reminded everyone that he still held bridge equipment that would have to find new homes. NM/ JM said they were on the case and would soon be able to remove the items.

The meeting closed at 6pm.