



2018 AGM: SUMMARY

The 2018 AGM was held on Saturday 22nd September at 11:00am at the Newcastle Bridge Club. 53 members attended, and 114 members tendered an apology (including those who submitted a proxy vote).

The meeting was officially opened by Jeff Biddlecombe (President and Chair) and was conducted in accordance with the agenda that had been sent to members.

1. The minutes from the 2017 AGM were accepted, then signed as a true record by Jeff Biddlecombe.
2. Tony Wagstaff presented the Treasurer's report, which was accepted. Key points:
 - Profit, while 36% less than the previous year, was still considered acceptable
 - Expenses were up by 4.6% (due mainly to wages, social activity and R & M) but were partly offset by lower electricity expenses, due to solar panels and LED's
 - Revenue was down by 2.8%, due to Thursday night sessions being terminated because of low attendance, and reduced support for some other sessions. However, there was strong growth in attendance at Thursday morning sessions
3. Tony Wagstaff reported that interest rates for term deposits had continued to decline throughout the year and suggested it may be time to consider other investment opportunities. Options included paying for advice from an external adviser or appointing a sub-committee of members to recommend alternatives to the Committee. However, there was a consensus from members to continue with term deposits, due to concerns about the risks associated with higher return investments, as well as the cost of external advisers.
4. Tony Wagstaff proposed that the Club continue to use Lambourne Partners for review of its financial records. The proposal was accepted.
5. Julie Butel presented the Secretary's report, noting that financial membership had increased from 350 to 357 members. Of the 36 new members, 24 were newcomers to Bridge. Julie commented that finding ways to keep new players returning is important and thanked all those who had provided guidance during her first year in the role. The report was accepted.
6. Jeff Biddlecombe presented the President's report which included highlights of the last 12 months. Jeff commented on the Club's recent 50th anniversary lunch, noting the importance of such events to celebrate the Club's long history. He thanked all the volunteers who had contributed to the Club's activities during the year, as well as the Committee, and individually thanked the three Committee members who were leaving or who had left the Committee. The report was accepted.

7. Jeff Biddlecombe introduced the motion that had been proposed by a member “**to change the Bridgemates back to show results**”. Jeff commented that this was the third time the matter had been taken to a vote, noting his concern that the matter had caused considerable stress to some members. He proposed that the motion be taken straight to a vote without discussion to avoid further conflict. However, members requested permission to address the meeting. After considerable discussion, the vote was taken. The results were as follows:

- **Votes:** “YES” - 28; “NO” - 17; Abstained – 8 (including 3 who had voted by proxy)
- **Proxies:** “YES” - 22; “NO” – 87
- **TOTALS:** “YES” - 50; “NO” – 104.

OUTCOME: The motion was defeated

8. Jeff Biddlecombe advised that sufficient nominations had been received for next year’s Committee; therefore, a vote for selection was not required. The new Committee was considered duly elected and consists of:

President: Jeff Biddlecombe
Vice President: Vincia Martin
Treasurer: Tony Wagstaff
Secretary: Julie Butel
Ordinary members: Howard Bridgman, Rosalie Broughton, Caroline Carey,
Ailsa Kearney

Jeff welcomed the new members to the Committee and individually introduced the new members to the meeting, adding that he looked forward to working with them.

9. There was no further business, so the meeting was officially closed at 12 noon.

A full copy of the Minutes can be found on the Notice Board at the Club as well as on the Newcastle Bridge Club’s website.