

Mid Suffolk Cribbage League

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Framlingham Railway on Tuesday 13th June 2023 commencing at 8.00pm

PRESENT

Nick Barlow Shepherd (Chair), Bev Squirrell (Treasurer) Barbara Barker (Secretary), Phillip Coe (Fixtures secretary) Nick Gardens (Competitions Secretary) Michael Mann, Sheila Morphey
Clubs represented: Saxmundham ESMC, Eastbridge Eels Foot, Saxtead Old Mill, Bruisyard Village Hall, Yoxford Kings Head, Leiston Homeguard, Laxfield Bowls Club, Middleton Bell, Theberton Lion, Kettleburgh Chequers, Framlingham Railway, Dennington Queen's Head

Apologies from Riverside Centre Captain, working late but wishes to still enter a team in the forthcoming season.

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Minutes of the 2022 AGM held at Saxtead Old Mill had previously been distributed. It was agreed they were a true record and duly signed by the Chairman as such.

Matters arising from the minutes: it was pointed out that there was no mention of a fixture secretary being appointed at the last AGM, though it was apparently discussed but accidentally omitted from the minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE SEASON

The chairman had already welcomed everyone and had little else to say about the season just ended except to say all matches – both league and competitions had been concluded successfully, culminating in a successful finals night /presentation evening. The website has been updated with winners and photographs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer circulated copies of her report 2022/23. There is currently £1780.04 in the bank but £415.58 still in uncleared cheques outstanding. This will leave a carry forward for 2023/4 season of only £654.46.

A cheque for £200 had been presented to St Elizabeth Hospice on Finals Night.

A question was raised about the engraving fees being lower than expected, this was due to an error with the dates on some trophies (not of our making) therefore some engraving was not charged for.

The projection for the website fees given may also not be an accurate estimate as we won't know until the two year term already paid for is up next April.

After clarification of these points it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the accounts be adopted.

Thanks given to Bev for preparing them.

MATTERS ARISING DURING THE SEASON OR FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

1. Treasurers recommendations

After much discussion around raising the annual subs it was proposed by SM and seconded by CC that subs be £60 for the upcoming season. Passed.

Trophies – discussion ensued about teams engraving their own trophies this year to help alleviate the low funds in hand. Proposed WC seconded SM. Passed. All trophies to be therefore returned, engraved and cleaned, on finals night 2024.

Also discussed to save money and as a trial – no runners up trophies for the competitions as it was felt teams or individuals *may* only play a couple of games to get to a final if they receive byes for example, whereas the league runners up who have played 24 games currently get nothing. Proposal to not have runners up trophies as a trial BUT bring in a league runners up trophy, by CC seconded by SM. Passed.

Website fees – we are paid up for this coming season and won't know how much the renewal will be until April 2024. It was agreed to leave this to the committee to look at either renewing with Wix or finding an alternative when we know the costs.

Bev also highlighted that next year could all teams please provide a *decent* raffle prize on Finals Night.

It was thought that we need to update the accounts to internet banking to alleviate the need for cheque signing and to be able to pay by BACS transfers. Proposed CC seconded WC. Passed. Also to add the secretary to the account as a signatory. Bev to action.

2. Fixture list

Last seasons fixtures were very imbalanced for most teams, with a string of home fixtures for example before Christmas and the reverse afterwards, instead of the usual alternate home/away that we had previously. Reasons of difficulty with the spreadsheet were given for this. Barbara then showed an example made from a fixture list creating website which will create the list with however many teams are participating, allowing for a vacancy each week for one team in turn. Should any new teams decide to join this coming season they can be slotted into a vacancy week. Proposed by SM seconded by JC that Barbara upload the fixture list to the website nearer to the start of the season. Passed.

SM reported that the Yoxford team will be playing at Darsham Fox for the next season and will be known as Darsham Fox not Yoxford.

3. Competitions

A particular problem arose with the cup and plate and vacancies this year in that in one instance two vacancies were against each other. It was thought it wasn't possible to organise so this doesn't happen with an odd number of teams but it actually is possible if you start with the 16 places in the first round not 14 as last season. (See appendix to these minutes)

One or two venues organising competitions this year struggled with the format and had byes in the wrong places, possibly down to inexperienced people being asked to undertake the job. Any organiser who needs assistance should get in touch with a committee member beforehand. Organisers should also refer to the protocols for competitions updated at the last AGM in 2022, particularly the part on finishing to semi- final or finals.

It was suggested we might like to rotate venues for competitions to alleviate the same people organizing the same event but many of these are venue dependent and it was agreed to leave them as they are.

4. Results and league table updates.

During the season many people were concerned that the website results and league table were not being updated regularly, sometimes being 2 or 3 weeks behind. Nick explained that not everyone sends their results in on time therefore they can't be passed on to Phil until he has them all. Also access to the laptop to post results is limited.

All captains are duly reminded that results should be forwarded asap, preferably at the end of each match. Likewise competition results - sheets should be returned to Nick G.

5. Conceded games protocol/scoring

Conceding a game should only be a very last resort – there is provision in the rules for re-arranging fixtures due to extreme weather etc . Team captains should advise the chair and /or secretary of any postponement deemed necessary. Discussion on penalty points for defaulting is to be an agenda item for next years AGM. According to our current Rule 7 it is 2 points to the non-defaulting team but a 0-0 score in legs which should remain in place for the upcoming season.

6. Match etiquette

Once again this is mentioned as there have been several instances again during the season of interference or intimidatory comments from bystanders. **Please can captains reinforce the etiquette expected of players to all their team members and encourage staying at table unless getting a drink etc. Rule 19.**

7. Finals night 2023

All feedback received has been very positive – a good venue, plenty of parking, good food – value for money. Captains do need to respond though when asked for an approximate number of attendees – both for catering and seating arrangements.

All agreed we would like to return to Riverside next year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

A proposal was made by JP that if all officers were willing the meeting should elect them en-bloc.

All were happy to stand again . Passed.

Chairman: Nick Barlow Shepherd

Vice Chair: Adrian Chilvers

Secretary (inc. fixtures temporarily) : Barbara Barker

Treasurer: Bev Squirrell

Results co-ordinator: Phillip Coe

Competitions secretary: Nick Gardens

Committee
 Michael Mann
 Sheila Morphey

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nick reported a communication received from a blind gentleman who plays with braille cards, who wishes to join a team. It would mean he takes own cards to every table in rotation. The cards are normal cards but with braille in the top corner. No need for each club to buy a set. As yet he hasn't joined any particular team though Laxfield is his nearest geographically.

(It was pointed out that to refuse him would be discrimination.)

The league will begin on 12th September 2023 with the last one before Christmas being 5th December. Resume 9th January last one on 2nd April. (This is on the assumption that we have 13 teams as before) . Finals night to be decided with Riverside – possibly a Thursday again due to other bookings on Tuesdays.

Knockout cup draw – (performed by SM) 3 byes included to allow for the potential inclusion of new teams.

Theberton Lion	v	Leiston Homeguard
Sax ESMC	v	Bye
Riverside Centre	v	Framlingham Railway
Laxfield Bowls Club	v	Bye
Darsham Fox	v	Middleton Bell
Kettleburgh Chequers	v	Dennington Queen
Bye		Eels Foot
Saxtead Old Mill	v	Bruisyard VH

In the event of any new teams joining – the first bye will be replaced first, then the second then the third.

Meeting closed at 10.06pm Thank you to Carl and Framlingham Railway for hosting.

APPENDIX

Once the first round of the knock- out cup is complete there will be 8 winning teams into the next round. 5 teams will go into the plate plus the 3 vacancies/byes from the first round. If arranged as all other competitions where byes are put in first the 5 losing teams will be drawn into the remaining places. There will only be one match to be played, with 3 teams automatically advancing to the next round, thus avoiding having byes in the wrong places.

