**Provisional Minutes of the 2023 Bridge Ssection AGM held on 12 December 2023**

Jenny opened the meeting at 2.10pm and welcomed the 16 members present.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Dougie Anderson, Christiane du Couedic, June Jourdan, Penny Tagher, Sue Hall, Linda Gill and Ghislaine Dubau.

**Item 1. Approval of the agenda**

The provisional agenda was unanimously approved.

**Item 2. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 AGM**

Approval of the 2022 minutes was proposed by Monica and seconded by Joan.

**Item 3. Report of the Chairperson**

Jenny thanked the Committee: Monica, in charge of the accounts, Joan, who stocked up on wine, Anne, who prepared the boards for our tournaments with the TM duplicating machine and continued her classes with her group of pupils on Sunday afternoons, Joyce and Claude who helped with the 2 workshops organised this year; and finally our honorary President, Mary for her advice and moral support.

She then recalled the terrible loss of Lucien Jourdan - a delightful person with a lovely sense of humour, who on retirement had taken up bridge in earnest and was going to play in Jane’s Interclub team when he fell ill. And Mollie, John Willatts’ wife, who had been Secretary of the Club as well as a keen player of hockey, tennis, squash and snooker; she later took up golf and became an active member of that Section. They are both missed terribly by their families and many friends.

**Item 4. Report of the Treasurer**

Jenny then handed the floor to Monica who distributed the Statement of Receipts and Payments from January to 30 November 2023. She explained that the income from our tournaments covered expenses; the after-tournament cocktail was a separate account. The previous year 26 players had taken out their licence with the Club. This season the number stood at 25. She saw no necessity for increasing the table fee from its present level of €5; the Section had €1500 cash in hand at the bank. The approval of the accounts was proposed by Joyce Jacques and seconded by Ian Jones.

**Item 5. Section activities**

Jenny pointed out that her report would only cover our activities since our last AGM in February 2023. First of all, she congratulated Jane and her team; they qualified for the Committee Final of the Interclub Competition in March and finished in a very honourable 4th place. Well done to all of them!

Our monthly tournaments had been well attended with 6 tables in February, 5 tables in March, April, May and June; in September; after the summer break, we had our Individual tournament with 7 tables; Raymond Natanson very kindly came along to present the prizes and cups: Ghislaine Dubau won the Henri Natanson cup with an accumulated score of 42 points for the whole season, Monica Greenwood was awarded the Oliver Langhorne Fair Play Cup; she also took 2nd place in the Individual tournament – with a score of almost 60% - and as the 2 players who tied for 1st place were not members of the Club, Monica naturally received the Freddie Chakour Trophy. Raymond had kept his word and a new H.N.cup was in the process of being delivered. The presentation finally took place at our October tournament at which we had 8 tables; in November we were 7 tables and this month 7 tables again.

Jenny added that the cocktail organised after the tournament was attracting a fair number of players, particularly from outside the Club, which contributed to the success of the tournaments. Anne had prepared many delicious “buffets campagnards” and recently we had tried a different formula with a glass or two of champagne/wine and some fingerfood. The aim was to give people a chance to chat and get to know each other, which was not really possible during play.

With the help of Joyce and Claude, we had managed to organise 2 workshops this year – on the “5-keys Blackwood” (in March) and on the Michael’s Cue-bid (in April). These were thoroughly enjoyed by a good number of participants; they require a lot of preparation, but hopefully there would be another one next year if we knew what subject would interest the majority.

Anne Raynaud had continued her lessons – on Sunday afternoons. Her pupils were now in their 2nd year and her group had grown with the addition of other players who felt the need for revision. She congratulated Anne on her patience and perseverance!

For the 2023-24 season, 25 players had taken out or renewed their licence with us. Jane Brooks had again managed to get a team together to play in the Interclub competition. The members of her team were: Marie-Claire Boyer, Christine Clement, Yves Delserieys, Elise Gaumont, Jerome Griffon de Bellay, Pat Harding and Jane. They would be playing in Division 4 this year, as their “Indice de Competition” was too high for them to play in Div. 5.

Besides the Tuesday “lunch and bridge” initiated by Dougie, Jean-Paul Ruzé had carried on organising bridge sessions on Monday afternoons for those who were happy to play slightly less competitive bridge. This format was very popular and there were 3 or 4 tables each time. Many thanks to Jean-Paul for all his efforts!

**Item 7. Election of the new committee**

All the members of the existing committee were prepared to carry on, and were re-elected by a show of hands.

**Item 8. Any other business**

Anne Raynaud suggested that it would be good if there was more interaction between our Section and the Trèfle Meudonnais and in fact organized a very successful tournament at the TM pairing up 1st/2nd series players with 3rd/4th series players. An excellent initiative.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 2.30pm.