

Hartford Bridge Club
Annual Meeting-via Zoom webinar
October 25,2020

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. via a Zoom webinar. There were 128 attendees. There were also 12 ballots received electronically from members who could not attend.

Trevor Reeves welcomed everyone and explained the procedures that would be followed through this new type of annual meeting. A practice ballot was taken to ensure that all were comfortable with the procedure we would be using to vote on issues presented. Trevor commented that the past year had been very challenging for everyone because of the global pandemic. He said that the board would remain focused on maintaining as safe a playing environment as possible, in accordance with public health guidelines. He thanked the club's members for their continued support and for their participation in the club's online games. These HBC-specific virtual games have enabled the club to remain stable financially and to cover fixed costs, such as rent. He thanked several people, including Club Manager Donna Feir, for all she had done during a difficult year for the club and the game of bridge. He thanked the game directors for directing our 14 virtual weekly games. Susan Seckinger, associate club manager, and Sally Kirtley, chief contact with ACBL and BBO, were also acknowledged. Linda Starr and Peter Katz keep us all up to date with the work they do with communication via email and the website. John Calderbank, outgoing treasurer, and John Dinius, finance committee chair, maintain our financial records. Dan Finn presented lessons virtually for our members and Felix Springer, as pluckycat, sent out educational emails about how to play with and against the BBO robots. Riva Lewinter was thanked for organizing the many fund raisers the club ran before the shutdown. Trevor also commented about the many volunteers that donate their time to make our club what it is today. Our membership is still high and we were set for another banner year as the largest bridge club in New England. Trevor thanked all the board officers and trustees for their service this year.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were accepted (93 ballots all voting yes).

Treasurer's Report and Yearly Review: September fund balance was \$99,624, a loss of \$10,170. John Dinius, finance committee chair, confirmed the yearly review of the financial numbers presented.

Club Manager's Report: The Hartford Bridge Club will never be stopped, not even by a pandemic! We are celebrating our 89th year, the oldest bridge club in North America. Our membership now includes 18 new members. Our club is a member-owned club

A Moment of Silence was held for recently deceased members.

Amended Bylaws were sent electronically to all members. The changes made were recommended to support the club's application to the IRS for conversion to a non-profit 501(c)(3). A motion was made and seconded for approval and accepted (99 ballots, all voting yes).

Comments from Members: A request for a 99er game was made. Frank Merblum informed the membership about the Victor King memorial set for November 1, 2020. A question about returning to live bridge was made and Trevor responded that the club must comply with state regulations and ACBL guidelines.

Slate for 2020-21 Officers and Directors was presented by Bev Saunders. The slate was Felix Springer, president; Linda Erickson, vice president; Trevor Reeves, treasurer; Ann Lohrand, secretary; Tom Joyce, 1-year trustee; Sharon Kwash, 1 year; Mary Sullivan, 2 years; Roger Pikor, 2 years; Bill Wininger, 3 years; John Willoughby, 3 years (105 ballots, all voting yes).

Felix Springer, as incoming president, praised Trevor Reeves for his extraordinary leadership. He also commented that the Hartford Bridge Club is a special community and the board is dedicated to preserving and enhancing that community. He asked for the help and support of HBC's members in that endeavor.

Thanks were offered to departing trustees, Marie Abate and Frank Merblum.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lohrand, Secretary