

Winchester Bridge Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 12th July 2011

At 7a Dean Close, Winchester

Present: Paul Tanner (Chairman), Roger Melly (Treasurer), Jenny McRobert, Wendy Hammond-Parker, Jackie Pitman, Bob McRobert, Arun Swarup, Bill Tallis, Geoff Wickes.

Apologies for Absence: David Walton, John Cornes, Alistair Thomson

Minutes of the last meeting: PT read out the minutes and the committee approved the version amended by JM on 11th July 2011.

Matters arising:

- 1. Sandwich Evening on 27th July.** JP reported that she had organised a sandwich evening on 27th July and that all were welcome to attend. BM asked about the format for the evening and how often these evenings would take place. JP responded that it was rubber bridge, bring a partner and £4 per person. JP explained the sandwich evenings were spasmodic, about 2-3 times a year, and that we will have one for the John Crickmay Trophy evening.
- 2. Hosting programme.** BT outlined the importance of the hosting scheme in attracting new members. He explained that it had strongly influenced his decision to join, as it meant that he would be assured of getting a game. It was agreed that we needed more hosts and should continue to try and build-up the numbers.
- 3. Directors' Training Course.** It was agreed that the club will fund Director's training (aside from travelling and out-of-pocket expenses). As the EBU are offering training for two for the price of one, David Walton and Heather McGinn will attend the Aylesbury course and Paul Tanner, Bill Tallis, Arun Swarup and Geoff Wickes would attend the Brighton course. GW will ring the EBU to book these courses.
- 4. Scoring for Tuesday's Duplicate.** It was reported that the plan to make Geoff Oldfield an additional scorer was in hand.
- 5. Distribution of Minutes.** AS said that minutes of the committee meetings should be transparent to our members and should be put on the notice board and sent via e-mail to all members. PT agreed to do this.
- 6. Structure of the committee.** It was agreed that the current committee is larger than is needed. The discussion about how the committee should be structured and the length of time that should be served by each member was deferred until the next committee meeting.
- 7. Questionnaire to ask members whether they want a second night of duplicate bridge.** JM had completed a draft questionnaire and sent it to committee members for comments. After some discussion the wording was agreed. JM will produce an updated version, which she will send to committee members for final approval before circulating to all members either via e-mail or by hand. JP said she would hand it out to rubber bridge members. It was agreed that JM would receive and collate the results and report on these at the next committee meeting.
- 8. Guidelines on Bridge Etiquette and Speeding up Play.** JM had completed and formatted the handout, based on RM's original document. It was agreed that these guidelines only apply to duplicate players. RM suggested that the guidelines are

placed on the notice board and PT asked that they also be handed out to all duplicate members. JM agreed to undertake this.

Treasurer's Report: RM reported that the EBU had sent him a letter, outlining what the tennis club is paying them for Pay To Play and that we did not need to worry about this, as it was all in hand.

Teaching: BM intends to resume classes in September with his improvers group, but would need to take into account the results of the questionnaire (on having a second night of duplicate), as this might affect the room booking. BT commented that it is very important to have an active teaching programme to attract new members and asked about teaching for beginners. BM said that he would need to finish the course for the improvers first (13 students) and that inquiries from beginners were not yet up to sufficient numbers to warrant a class.

BM asked the committee for their opinions about a teaching programme for the club, i.e. did they support this wholeheartedly. PT said we should support the teaching, as it is a valuable asset to the club, and the rest of the committee agreed.

Report from Membership Sub-Committee: AS read out the minutes of the last meeting. BT stressed the importance of our web site and asked if we could measure how many hits we have. The committee agreed with BT when he said that the web site was very important for attracting new members and needed to be kept up to date. PT asked if he and BT could look at the website together with a view to improving it and BT agreed. AS reported current membership numbers as: Duplicate Bridge players=32, Rubber Bridge players=15, those playing both rubber and duplicate=8. Current total of 55 members.

Any other business:

- a) **Notice Board.** JP commented that the notice board was too small. The committee agreed that we need a bigger one and that the Bridge Club should pay for this. PT agreed to purchase a suitable board.
- b) **How we should progress as a club.** AS asked BT for his view of the club as a new member. BT raised some important issues, which the committee agreed should be on the agenda for the next meeting. These issues include:
 - I. BT felt there was a high demand for bridge in our area and that we may be missing out on attracting new members.
 - II. Most good clubs have a dedicated night for beginners and a teaching programme, both of which are very attractive to people looking to join a club
 - III. A greater variety of duplicate sessions is offered by other clubs e.g. a beginners' night, team nights and special events. Duplicate is the growth side of bridge.
 - IV. A second night of duplicate would give more value for money.
 - V. The better clubs have an electronic scoring system.

The committee agreed that we do need to plan for the future and find ways of working better within the main club.

- c) **Management committee meetings:** BM asked if PT could regularly provide the committee with his report to the Management Committee a week before each

Management Committee meeting, so that members had a chance to add anything. Also, it is useful for committee members to know what was discussed regarding Bridge at the Management Committee, so a debrief is necessary. PT agreed to this.

- d) Dates for future committee meetings:** BM suggested that we should diary the meetings for the whole year to give committee members greater notice and a better chance of attending. PT gave future provisional dates as:

15th September 2011

17th November 2011

19th January 2012

The meeting closed with thanks to Roger for the use of his house and kind hospitality.