

DRAFT MINUTES AWAITING APPROVAL

Winchester Bridge Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 17th November 2011

at Winchester Tennis and Squash Club

Present: Paul Tanner (Chairman), Jenny McRobert (Acting Secretary), Wendy Hammond-Parker, Jackie Pitman, Bob McRobert, Geoff Wickes, Arun Swarup, John Cornes, Bill Tallis.

Apologies for Absence: Roger Melly (Treasurer), David Walton, Alistair Thomson.

Minutes of the last meeting: The committee approved the minutes for the last meeting held on 15th September, 2011.

Matters arising:

- 1. Director Training Courses.** Heather McGinn and Alistair Thomson (late substitute for David Walton) attended the Aylesbury course in October. Six club members are booked on the Basingstoke course on 3rd December; Jackie Payne, Jenny McRobert, Paul Tanner, Bill Tallis, Geoff Wickes, Arun Swarup.
- 2. Scoring for Tuesday's Duplicate.** BM remarked that scoring is delayed for days when both regular scorers (Arun and Val) are away. Geoff Oldfield finds he cannot take on the scorer's role due to other pressing commitments. Heather McGinn has kindly offered to take his place, although this would entail training by Val. Many thanks to Heather, who will be offered the job, subject to Val's agreement to train her.
- 3. Distribution of Minutes.** JM, as acting secretary, to distribute the approved minutes to all members and to place a copy on the notice board. Current minutes will be noted as 'Draft Minutes Awaiting Approval.' PT will put them in the 'Members only' section of the website.
- 4. John Crickmay Trophy.** JP reported that there were 5 tables and that the evening went well. The food was excellent and very good value for money. Congratulations to Wendy Hammond- Parker and Jo Burnaby, who won the trophy.
- 5. Structure of the Committee.** There was further discussion about the structure of the committee. BM reminded committee members that at the last AGM we were told by the WTSC Chairman, Peter Friedmann, that the constitution for other committees in the club states a fixed term of office of no more than six years. This is to allow for 'fresh blood' on the committee every so often. The new Bridge committee was asked to address this matter at their next meeting. BM felt that we had not completed this task. It was recognised that some members have been on the committee for a longer period of time because in the past it has been hard to find people to step up to the post. AS was keen to point out that we need to give new members a chance and PT added that the elections at the AGM, which are for all posts (official and otherwise), should naturally allow this to happen. BT said another advantage of rotation was that

members will know they are not 'stuck on the committee' for ever, but for a fixed term. It was agreed that a full discussion should take place at the next committee meeting.

- 6. Thursday Night Bridge and Sunday Bridge Tea.** JM reported that sixteen people attended the first Thursday night 'pilot' evening and there are at least twenty names down for the second Thursday on 24th November. This extra evening is proving popular and has not adversely affected Tuesday evenings (7 full tables on the Tuesday before (25 Oct.) and 8 full tables on the Tuesday after (1st Nov.) the Thursday bridge). JP mentioned that it had affected Wednesday's rubber bridge that week, as some people who would normally have played on Wednesday, preferred to play on Thursday. JM reported that two more dates have been set; 16th February 2012 and 15th March 2012. The committee decided that we should keep the Thursday bridge to once a month for the time being and re-visit the matter later, if it proves to continue to be popular. GW asked JM about the Sunday Bridge Tea. She reported that there were only 4 names on the list, so it had to be cancelled. AS suggested holding another event around April of next year to allow time to publicise it. AS also suggested, we could combine it with the regular Sunday Bridge session. David Trew has come up with an idea for a hosting a special bridge event involving members of WTSC who are not members of the bridge section. The committee agreed in principle, but PT asked if David Trew could give us a proposal to mull over. We would hold the event some time in the New Year.
- 7. Management Committee Meetings.** PT asked if committee members had anything for him to bring to the next management committee meeting. JP asked when the blind for the windows will be replaced, as the brightness of the low sun is causing a problem. PT said he would follow it up. BT asked if the management committee are discussing the club re-development. PT said this has been postponed because of the money spent on the indoor tennis courts.
- 8. Carvery and Coffee/Tea Provision.** JP mentioned that the club does an excellent Sunday carvery once per month which is very good value for at £10. The committee all agreed that we should encourage our members to use the bar and restaurant facilities more. BM pointed out that some members may not realise that bridge membership also entitles them to social membership. JM said that she had spoken to Jake about providing a flask of coffee and tea on Tuesday evenings, for a trial period. Members would pay a small amount for a cup. The committee agreed that we should go ahead and explore this and JM has undertaken to find out the cost and organise it with Jake. PT said we need to continue to encourage the bridge members to use the club socially – as the club tries to help the bridge section as much as possible, we should show that we are also contributing to the club.

Treasurer's report. RM was absent from the meeting but had said that there was nothing to report.

Teaching. BM resumed the Monday night classes in early October. He now has eleven 'improvers' going through the term to 12th December, then there will be a Christmas break before classes resume early in the New Year. BM thanked JP for allowing him more space in the room for his class as the cut-in rubber players only have one or two tables now and don't need half the room. PT asked BM about beginners' classes. BM reported that he had

recently had some queries (five-six) for a beginners' class. PT asked BM if he might start a class next autumn. BM replied that this is a possibility, if the prospective students were still available by then and if the current class did not want further courses, as only Monday evenings were available. GW asked BM how many of his students had joined the club. BM replied that at least two (David Trew & Judy Slaney) had joined this year. It was later discovered that a 3rd student, Sarah Stanton, had also joined recently as a direct result of the teaching. At least four other students had joined in previous years. GW then asked BM when the rest will be ready. BM replied there are several others who need to build their confidence before they are ready and hoped that by April 2012 a few more of his students will become members. BM is still organising Sunday Bridge for his students and other inexperienced players. BM has encouraged these players to come to next Thursday's duplicate on 24th November. BM suggested that these and any other new players should be made welcome by the chairman, director or a committee member at the start of the session and that our more experienced members should make allowances for the new players. The Director should keep an eye on things and make sure the new players are made to feel welcome. BT has kindly offered to be host on the evening. JC thanked BM for all his teaching efforts and for bringing in new members.

Planning the future of the club, Bridgemates. BM reported that Basingstoke Bridge Club committee have decided not to replace their Bridgemates system at least another year. Although at the last committee meeting BM had been given the authority to buy either second-hand or new Bridgemates, having looked into the likely cost, he felt that he should report back to the committee before doing so. PT asked BM to research some more into the cost of purchasing ten Bridgemates and BT offered to assist with this. It was suggested that PT raise the subject at the next management committee meeting and ask the main club what portion of the cost they would be prepared to fund. All agreed that we needed further discussion, e.g. about storage and security and that the committee should come to a final decision after this. BM reported that feedback from other clubs who had changed to Bridgemates was very positive and indicated that their membership had increased as a result.

Report from Membership Sub- Committee. AS referred to the minutes of Membership Subcommittee meeting. AS and BM welcomed David Trew as a new member of this committee, replacing Bridget Friedmann. Penny Farncombe has now also come off the subcommittee. AS suggested that a member of the rubber section should volunteer to take her place. JP replied that most are elderly and would not want to do it. WH-P asked what was in it for rubber players. BM said it was for the good of the whole club and that Sunday sessions alternated between rubber and duplicate.

AS mentioned that we are short of volunteers to help run the Sunday bridge sessions (this is being run by BM and David Trew). BM had sent out a general email to members, asking for help, but nobody had responded.

BT asked how many members we currently have (55). Bridget Evers and Robin Owen have left, but David Vinnell and Sarah Stanton have joined. BT also suggested that we do a survey of the ten most recent members who have joined to find out how they heard of the Bridge club. The committee agreed. AS reported that plans for further advertising are underway and both he and BM will approach key organisations in the Winchester area, e.g. The Guildhall, to give them our brochure. GW offered to take some brochures to the Guildhall. BM is currently updating the brochure, which will be ready in a few days.

Any Other Business.

- a. Notice Board and New Cupboard.** Following BM's discussions with Jake, we now have a new cupboard and new notice board. The committee agreed that the new cupboard is a great improvement on the old one. The new notice board is much bigger and more suitable. It was clarified that it was the responsibility of the secretary to see that the notice board was kept tidy and up to date with relevant notices.
- b. Christmas Party.** GW has organised the Christmas Party for 7pm on **19th January 2012**. JM to send out this date with the reminders about Thursdays. GW said the price would be about £14 per person.
- c. Other dates for the diary.** JP reported that Esther Lucas has died and that her memorial service will be on **29th November 2011** at 12.00 midday. Members are welcome to attend and should contact JP for further details. PT has arranged the Bridge section **AGM for 26th April 2012**.
- d. Date of next committee meetings.** The date for the next meetings were confirmed as **2nd February 2012** and **29th March 2012**. Venue to be notified later.