

Winchester Bridge Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15th September 2011

At 7a Dean Close, Winchester

Present: Paul Tanner (Chairman), Roger Melly (Treasurer), Jenny McRobert (Acting Secretary), Wendy Hammond-Parker, Jackie Pitman, Bob McRobert, Geoff Wickes.

Apologies for Absence: Arun Swarup, David Walton, John Cornes (Secretary), Alistair Thomson, Bill Tallis

Minutes of the last meeting: The committee approved the minutes for the last meeting on 12th July.

Matters arising:

- 1. Sandwich evening on 27th July.** JP reported that the evening went well with four tables. She praised the quality of the sandwiches provided and expressed disappointment that no duplicate players were present.
- 2. Hosting Programme.** The committee agreed that we now have sufficient numbers for the rota, and this means that each person will only have to be on duty once every four months. BM raised the issue of a host for our 'pilot' second evening of bridge to be held on a Thursday in October (date to be confirmed). PT volunteered for this task.
- 3. Director's Training Courses.** Heather McGinn and David Walton will be attending the Aylesbury course in early October. BM has reserved places on the Basingstoke course and needs confirmation from those intending to go.
- 4. Scoring for Tuesday's Duplicate.** PT reported that Geoff Oldfield is now an additional scorer for Tuesday nights.
- 5. Distribution of Minutes.** JM, acting as secretary, to distribute the approved minutes for the meeting on 12th July, to all members and to place a copy on the notice board. PT will put them in the members only section of the web site.
- 6. Structure of the Committee.** WH-P asked PT what the constitution says about structure of the committee, with regard to any restrictions on numbers and any length of time served. PT confirmed that a copy of the constitution can be viewed on the website. It's actually a "Terms of Reference" referring to the WTSC constitution. This is what was presented to the Bridge AGM and then the WTSC AGM and formally adopted last May. You will see that the minimum number of committee members is four plus officers, but we can co-opt as many as we wish. All committee members are elected for one year only and there is no restriction to them being re-elected as many times as they like, except for the chairman who is now restricted to 3 years. PT explained that before the AGM, prospective committee members should be proposed and seconded (this did happen last time). BM commented that it was a good thing that PT invited new members to join last time as all committees need new blood coming in from time to time. GW proposed that, at the next AGM we should revert to having only four members, in addition to the officers, all to be elected. BM suggested that we may need more committee members if the membership was to grow significantly. The length of time that committee members should serve was discussed and it was

recognised that, while turnover is healthy, there should not be a formal limit set at this stage.

- 7. Questionnaire to ask members whether they want a second night of duplicate.** JM reported on the results, as noted in her summary sent to the committee on 11th August. The consensus was for a second night to be organised, the same format as Tuesdays. JM reported that more members had said they would prefer sharing the room on a Monday to having it on a Thursday which may not be regularly available, but the numerical difference was not great between these two opinions. JM suggested that, as it would be less disruptive to all, we could initially try for a Thursday date rather than a Monday. PT asked JM to talk to Jake about availability and set a date for initial 'pilots' for just one day in October and November. JM will also publicise the date to members in good time. PT volunteered to be host for that evening and BM suggested that it might be a good opportunity for one of our newly trained Directors to practise. WH-P commented that one or two members had expressed concerns that numbers on Tuesdays might go down if we had a regular second night on a Thursday. JM said that most members had asked for an 'additional night,' not an 'alternative night' so this may not happen. JM and the committee agreed that an eye would have to be kept on this to ensure that Thursdays would not detract from Tuesday attendance.
- 8. Bridge Tea.** Club members were also asked if they would like a bridge tea on a Sunday two-three times a year, and most said they would. JM to talk to Jake about a date for this and will organise it. JM also suggested that people should pay in advance (unlikely to be more than £3.50) so that costs would be covered, if someone did not turn up. BM suggested that people should pay at Reception. The question of whether the Bridge Tea should be duplicate or rubber was discussed and the committee agreed that it is possible to run both simultaneously. JM remarked that it was good that we are seen to be supporting the bar and restaurant facility as this further cements a good relationship with the main club.
- 9. Guidelines on Bridge Etiquette and Speeding up play.** JM and other committee members reported that the document had been well received. PT to post it in the members section of the web site. JM will make sure that it is distributed to all who were not playing last Tuesday.

Treasurer's report. RM reported that he had paid for the Director training out of funds. He reported that we had three visitors since the last meeting.

Teaching. BM will be resuming his class for improvers on 26th September, going through to 12th December. He reported that there were eight students, which made it easier on space restrictions due to sharing the room until 8.30 with the cut-in players. GW asked if David Trew and Judy Slaney, who had played a few times on Tuesday evenings, were among the students and BM confirmed that they were.

Planning the future of the club. WH-P asked whether it would be possible for the club to have its own premises. After some discussion the committee agreed that this would not be possible because of the cost and general lack of affordable premises in the Winchester area. JM remarked that our relationship with the main club had improved enormously and that the main club management were now very supportive, e.g. Jake had confirmed to JM that the large room would be made available for Tuesday evenings with the exception of one booking that he is trying to move to a Thursday. JP reminded the committee about the difficulty the Bridge Club had in finding premises when we moved from the Conservative Club some years ago. PT raised the issue of the planned re-development of the club house and said that we

should make sure that a dedicated bridge room is put in to the plans. BM remarked that it is important that we keep up attendance numbers so that we can justify a dedicated large room. BM also commented that the membership sub- committee was intending to continue its mission of increasing the membership; the committee agreed. JM asked the committee whether the consensus opinion about the future of the club is that we should continue to grow. GW commented that the only obstacle was not having the space and this problem now appears to be solved with the regular provision of the larger room.

Report from Membership Sub- Committee. BM confirmed that there are now four committee members again, as David Trew has replaced Bridget Friedmann. BM suggested that we should start advertising again and the committee agreed this and other activities, e.g. informal Sunday bridge.

Bridgemates. RM had asked for this item to be included on the agenda and confirmed that we can afford to buy the Bridgemates, it is just a question of how their use is organised. BM supported this and said that having the Bridgemates would reduce errors and that it would not be possible for the wrong pair number or wrong score to be entered, as the machine would not allow this and would pick up all anomalies. BM also said that there is a possibility that Basingstoke Bridge Club are upgrading their system and we might be able to buy their Bridgemates second hand. PT suggested he go ahead and explore this and the rest of the committee agreed that BM should have authority to pursue this and purchase the Bridgemates, if they are available at a good price. BM said he would report back to the committee, if and when a deal is offered.

Any other business.

- a. **Notice Board and New Cupboard.** BM has spoken to Gemma about ordering a bigger, fixed cupboard and a bigger notice board. The main club may well be prepared to pay for this and BM is chasing progress with Gemma.
- b. **Christmas Party.** GW agreed to organise the Christmas Party again for this year. JP raised the issue that a committee member should organise the prizes and offered to help with this.
- c. **Date of next committee meeting.** The date for the next meeting was confirmed as being **17th November 2011** to be held at Dean Close.

The meeting closed with thanks to Roger for his kind hospitality, and wonderful cake!