

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 15th September 2008, 7.30pm at 6 Champs Close, Abingdon

Present: David Walton (DW) (Chair); Clive Keep (CK) (Secretary); Jean Moore (JM), Brian Moore (BM) Graham Simpson (GS), Ian Van Maanen (IVM); Andrew Speyer (AS).

1. Apologies for Absence: Keith Sadler (as informed at the meeting)

2. Minutes of 28th April 2008

The minutes for 28th April were agreed and signed by DW.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

All actions had been carried out except that CK had not included the topic of club finances on the agenda – so this was included as item 4a. Also GC had not visited St Michael and All Angels Church to see if it was fit for use for bridge – he was waiting for CK to contact the Warden – so there had been some ‘crossed wires’ there – anyhow it will be discussed again under item 5 of the agenda.

4. Club Correspondence

CK reported on the correspondence he had received since the last meeting:-

- A letter from the EBU and our club information request form. CK had completed this.
- An email from ‘bridgemates’ offering us a free demonstration – this is on the agenda as item 10.
- A poster from Oxford BC about new Monday morning bridge sessions – CK had put on the noticeboard.
- An email from Young Chelsea BC about a SIMS event on the 23rd September 2008 (cost £35) – CK had circulated this as soon as it was received. Reponse from those committee members that had replied suggested that it was not worthwhile. DW also stated that now we already had the duplimated hands for that night from Stephen Brown. CK to contact the organisers and confirm that we would not be taking part..

Action: **CK**

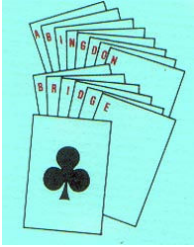
The EBU had circulated a letter from an EBU member and the EBU’s reponse on P2P. CK had circulated it to the committee members.

DW asked CK whether we had paid the Club subscription to the EBU yet. CK said that he had, as yet, not received the invoice.

4a Treasurer’s report.

AS distributed a report on both the distribution of expenditure and the distribution of club night expenditure for 2007. AS pointed out that the room rent ‘controls’ our expenditure in as much as it consisted then of about 50% of the total and this will increase as the Vale puts the rent up over the coming year(s). GC pointed out that the Vale is in financial difficulties and the Guild Hall might be closed on Mondays in the future – this would affect our Wessex League programme. AS’s reports showed that we need 9 tables to break even at 2007 costs and 9.5 tables to break even in 2008. He suggested that we urgently need new playing members, or to increase the table money. CK asked what the financial status of the Club was at present. AS stated that we had approx £1200 in our current account and ~£2700 on deposit. It was therefore decided that we didn’t need to panic and review the situation mid-late February when we will also have better data in order to make a decision. We can also decide then whether to discuss it at the AGM next year. The current membership is 72 members. It was agreed that we would make the ‘treasurer’s report’ an agenda item for every meeting.

Action: **CK**



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5. Possible new Bridge Club Venues.

- It was agreed that the St Michael and All Angels Church was unsuitable due to size and parking restrictions.
- J&BM had looked at the Christian Community Centre in Peachcroft – from Jan 2009 at a cost of £12 per hour. The downside is that they cannot store anything. They also can give us only three months notice. It was decided to keep them 'on the books' at the moment – J&BM to contact them. **Action : B&JM**
- J&BM had visited Abingdon Boys school – they cannot accommodate us.
- Peachcroft Community Centre? – J&BM are still trying to get some sort of reply to their enquiries from the Secretary.
- Northcourt Centre –J&BM to investigate **Action : B&JM**
- We could possibly use the Phoenix Club premises for Wessex League matches
- The Methodist Hall in Conduit Road is a possibility.
- The Conservative Club Neave Room has been re-furbished.

It was agreed that we would keep all options open – probably in Abingdon so as to maintain the Club's identity. CK to make it an agenda item at the next meeting. **Action: CK**

6. Len Salmon Trophy

GC had arranged this to be Sunday 23rd November at Roke Village Hall (Wallingford is at home).

7. P2P meeting on 29th May 2008

The EBU P2P proposals were accepted 21-4 which translated 3-0 in favour. This was the way our nominated shareholders were mandated to vote.

8. Reports on OBA meetings held on 12th June and 8th September 2008

- (a) Oxford is hosting the Camrose Trophy on 6th-8th March 2009. Sandra Claradge is organising it – any volunteers to help?
- (b) The new red rule book – this will be distributed to paid – up clubs.
- (c) The 'Orange Book' will become the 'White Book'!
- (d) A working party has been set up to look at the OBA finances and the way it spends its money (GC is on this WP).

9 'Bridgemates' review

CK had received an email offering a free demonstration and had looked up costs on the Bridgemates website. There was some discussion about whether we wanted these at the Club. IVM uses them at the Blewbury Club. The majority were in favour of not using them at the Abingdon Club at present CK to contact 'Bridgemates'.

Action: CK

10. 'Scorebridge' costs

The costs for an additional license for another scorer was £20. It was agreed to pay for this. GS stated that the cost of the Club's new webspace was £32.61, which he had paid himself. The Committee agreed to re-imburse him.

Action: AS

11. Charity Nights

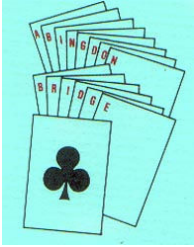
It was agreed that we would only have a 'charity Night' on the evening of the Christmas party. DW to announce.

Action: DW

12. Wessex League 2008/9

Three teams have been entered and fixtures arranged. Captains had agreed to organise things (CK, GC & IVM). AS asked if he could have the dates of the home fixtures for budgeting purposes.

Action: GC



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13. Christmas Party

Self catering as last year – full details will be discussed at the next meeting.

14. Any Other Business

(1) GC raised the issue of 'Butler' nights. He said that several people had said they didn't like them. CK said that we needed to know why they didn't... is it an education problem? It's Team's bridge!! There was no evidence that we had lower turn-outs on these nights and we only have two a year (and no more until after the next AGM). CK said he would like to have them once a month! The OBA has introduced it now on the 1st Monday of every month – as well as its team's event every third Tuesday. That is how popular it is in the county as a whole. It was agreed to leave any decision until next year's committee was in place.

(2) Details of the Camrose Trophy - + volunteers – DW to announce at the club.

Action: **DW**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the 10th November 2008.

The meeting closed at 0944pm.