

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 27th October 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), Keith Sadler(KS).

1. Apologies for Absence: All were present.

2. Minutes of 28th April 2008

The minutes for 15th September were agreed and signed by DW.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

All actions had been carried out

4. New Venues for the Bridge Club

This was the main purpose of the meeting, having been brought forward from the planned 10th November date. DW began by briefly explaining the position at the Guild Hall, as circulated during several email exchanges with the committee. The Guildhall had confirmed that the £99 per hour charge after 10pm has been in place for at least six years, and we should have been charged it from the very beginning, both for club nights on Tuesday and Wessex League matches. The charge is to cover staff overtime and the extra heating costs, etc after the official closing time for the building. They couldn't understand how the oversight happened, and the member of staff who dealt with Ray Ball has since left. However, there is no question that we should be paying it, and since it has been Council policy for six years there was no chance that it could be overturned. Our existing booking form simply states charges as per their current terms and conditions, and the £99 charge is clearly there in those terms and conditions.

The good news is that they are prepared to waive this extra charge until 2 January 2009 to help us sort out the problem.

DW had also received a letter from the Guildhall confirming the phased withdrawal of the community discount from 1 April 2009. This means the cost of club nights will be as follows:

Now: £39.75;

2 Jan 2009: £105.75;

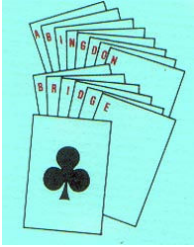
1 Apr 2009: £118.35 + inflation;

1 Apr 2010: £124.65 + inflation.

(These prices are based on a bare minimum 7pm to 10.45pm booking, instead of the current over-generous 7pm to 11.00pm. The Guildhall insist on 15minutes room preparation either side of our 7.15pm to 10.30pm use time). Since that time Committee members had done all they could to research possible alternatives, both for the Club and/or League matches, covering everything from availability on Tuesdays and Mondays (for League matches). cost, car parking, access for the infirm, etc.. Visits to each of the most likely premises had been carried out before this meeting. We need to cancel existing bookings at the Guildhall by 1st November to avoid cancellation fees. DW had circulated the short list of venues for both Tuesday evenings and for Wessex League matches prior to the meeting. Each of these were reviewed in turn – Action: **DW**

(a) The Conservative Club

Very much as before, with the bar at the opposite end to the door. Air conditioning was now in the middle of the room and the fire doors alarmed. Windows need to be kept shut. We could store our bridge tables there in the 'committee' room. There are no cups in the kitchen, restricted access for disabled/elderly. Still no carpets on the floor. Car parking great. Cost £30. Tuesday's are fine.



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(b) Long Furlong Community Centre

This is most attractively decorated, modern, but not as big as the others (10-12 tables?). Girl Guides are in the hall next door till 9pm – so there could be a noise problem. There is parking for 25 cars and there is space in the adjoining estate roads. Everything is at ground floor level, so access is good. A good set of padded chairs. Cost £25. Tuesdays are fine.

(c) North East Abingdon Community Centre

Tuesdays are OK. Room is next to the bar, but outside access to the room. Plenty of room for 15 tables, great kitchen. Walk-in cupboard. Possible noise problem with music playing in the bar till 11pm. Dimly lit outside. Standard chairs (it is thought). Cost about £45 but CK pointed out that he had been told on the day he was there that the standard hourly charges were negotiable for long-term bookings. This had not been confirmed.

(d) Hadland Road Community Centre

Not available for Tuesdays – so we are looking at this for Wessex League Matches only. Off Audlett drive. No Cupboard. Parking for only 10 spaces. Room for 15 tables. Cost £15.

AS then made some comments on costs – (1) we are heading for a £450 shortfall this year. (2) If we go to the Conservative Club (£30 per session) we will be better off by 37p a head using the current vale benchmark of £42 per session and 8.5 tables per night if we stick to the same table money, (3) if we go to Long furlong (£25 per session) we will be 50p better off, (4) If we go to Peachcroft (NE Abingdon Community Centre) we will be 31p a head worse off if the £52 estimate for 4 hours is confirmed (This estimate was taken from the booking form provided – no enquiries as to the actual cost for a regular booking were made).

The Committee then discussed all venues and their pros and cons. CK asked about notice periods – these were all one month or less, so if a mistake is made we can move relatively easily to another venue. This was considered important. KS suggested that we considered Mondays at some future date – which was agreed.

It was agreed that –

- (1) We will go to Hadland Road Community Centre for Wessex League home matches this season.
- (2) The choice was between Peachcroft and Long Furlong, the conservative club was considered to be the outsider.
- (3) We will try the Long Furlong Community Centre for a period of three months, starting on the 6th January 2009. CK to prepare a letter for all members by the end of November to hand out at the club and post to members who had not received notification. CK to put a notice up on the Website.
- (4) Team Captains to sort out catering on Wessex League Home matches. Along with transport of tables to start with (it might be possible to leave them there if we buy a Cupboard, though IVM thought we should keep costs to a minimum to start with).
- (5) CK & GS to rearrange the A v B match before Christmas.

Actions: **CK**

Action: **Team Cs**

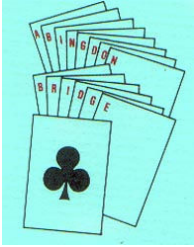
Action: **CK/GC**

Action: **CK/AS**

CK to get insurance quote from Osbournes (they insured us before), Mr Bridge and the EBU, keeping AS informed. The Committee authorised CK (in consultation with AS) to arrange insurance in time for 1st January 2008. Action CK/AS.

5 Officer's reports.

- (1) CK reported about some correspondence he had received from the EBU – both emails were concerned with the setting up of a 'Clubs' Committee and were information only – no action was needed at the moment. Copies had been circulated to Club members.
- (2) AS had nothing to add to his comments made earlier in the meeting.
- (3) DW reported that the host system was near to collapse. Members were not putting



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their names down to be hosts. Perhaps we should make it mandatory like Summertown? It was difficult to see how that could be enforced. Perhaps we should ask who doesn't want to do it and put names up that way. DW to announce for a couple of weeks.

Action: **DW**

6 Len Salmon Trophy

GC announced that we appeared to have a surplus of players this year!

7 Christmas Party

The committee agreed-

- (1) Price for non-contributors - £5 JM to collect
- (2) Turn up as an individual
- (3) Military Bridge – CK to run on the night, DW to bring flags
- (4) DW and JM to organise food and ask people to help where necessary
- (5) Be there at 7pm for 7.30 start
- (6) DW to sort out corkage and drinks - £100 allocated
- (7) DW to organise name/EW/NS slips
- (8) Raffle – KS and IVM to organise on the night

Actions: **see text**

8 Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 21.44

Note: We omitted to decide upon the nominated charity for Christmas Party – this will be decided at a later date.