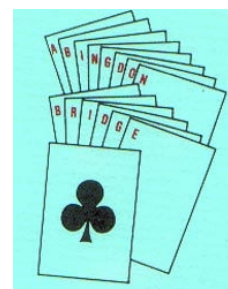


ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Monday 20 April 2009, 7.30 pm, at 6 Champs Close, Abingdon.

Present: David Walton (DW)(Chair); Mike Baker (MB) (Secretary); Andrew Speyer (AS)(Treasurer); Keith Sadler (KS), Gordon Carroll (GC), Jean Moore (JM), Brian Moore (BM) & Ian Van Maanen (IVM)



- 1 Welcome to new Committee Members. DW welcomed MB to his first committee meeting.
- 2 Apologies for absence: Graham Simpson (GS)
- 3 Minutes of 2nd February 2009. These were accepted
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes -
DW felt that the discussion about the host system during the Club AGM had been constructive and enabled any criticisms to be aired. The committee agreed that the host system is a benefit to the club. Regarding the Hadland Road venue DW pointed out that we have not yet received an invoice for any outstanding monies and that an agreement would need to be reached regarding looking after the keys to the venue once the Wessex league season was over. IVM queried if the club has anything in writing from the landlord and DW replied that the arrangement is a "gentleman's agreement" with nothing at this stage in writing. The issue of table storage was discussed under Any Other Business and the whole issue of the suitability of Hadland Road or a similar venue will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- 5 Club Calendar for 2009/2010
The club calendar has been changed to show 18 months worth of dates. The information regarding club competitions has been summarised to incorporate this. The Committee agreed with these changes. GC then proposed the removal of Butler scoring pairs nights as there was lower attendance on these evenings. The general consensus was in agreement with this and the motion was carried. GC also proposed a Teams Competition, from 2010, which would use the existing 4 evenings a year format. DW felt it would be beneficial to raise the profile of teams but JM felt the raising of standards may put some players off attending and that scratch teams would not benefit. There was a brief discussion about the finer points of any team's competition before a vote was accepted on the idea of a team's competition in principle, with the finer details to be decided at the next meeting.
The issue of whether to hold a team's night on 29 December 2008 was then discussed and a vote to change the format to pairs was carried.
The issue of whether the 22 December 2009 evening should be part of the open and handicap pair's competitions was briefly discussed and it was agreed it should. DW then asked if we should continue with the planned Christmas Party on the 8th December 2009 or whether this would be too early in the month. KS proposed leaving it as it is and this was agreed.
DW then agreed to take over from Clive Keep (CK) with the editing of the calendar. There followed a brief discussion over who edits the reverse side with members names on and DW agreed to use the database to amend these details. MB stated he was happy for his e mail address to be on the calendar.

Action
(keys) -
DW

Action -
DW

- 6 Allocation of Tasks for the year
- Membership Secretary (GC)
 - Collection/Engraving of trophies in Jan/Feb 2010 (JM & BM)
 - Liaison with Long Furlong and Hadland Road (DW)
 - Club Scorers (GS with DW in reserve)
 - Checking of stationery for club nights (JM, IVM, DW)
 - Club Website (CK)
 - Scoring of Club competitions (DW, CK for handicaps)
 - Club Host rota (DW)
 - Club Representative at O B A meetings (GC, IVM, AS) – previously this was CK, GC and IVM but CK has stepped down. Both IVM and GC expressed reservations about continuing but will do so for the time being. It was suggested MB may wish to join but it was felt best to defer this for a year. AS agreed to replace CK. There followed a brief explanation by GC as to why some members had left the club and how many new members had joined.
 - Law and Ethics Committee (CK, MPS, JC). Following discussions the committee agreed the L & E Committee should remain unchanged.
 - Wessex League Selection Committee (GC, GS, CK)
 - Len Salmon Trophy (GC, JM for catering)
 - Director's rota (DW)
 - Duplimate Boards (DW)

Action -
DW/AS

Following IVM's resignation from captaincy of the Abingdon C team in the Wessex league DW confirmed that Chris Lloyd had agreed to take over this.

- 7 Treasurer's Report
- AS confirmed he is awaiting some outstanding Wessex league monies. IVM agreed to speak to C team members. AS then confirmed that Club revenues have been similar to what was forecast in March.

- 8 Club Correspondence
- An appeal for help has been received from Cancer Research UK and it was discussed what we should provide in this instance. The feeling was that we have charities known to club members and we would not wish arbitrarily to assist a charity that had cold-called over our known charities. It was decided to put Cancer Research UK's name forward as a possible Christmas Charity and let the members decide. MB to draft a reply to this effect to Cancer Research UK

Action -
MB

- 9 Recent OBA meeting + Review of draft OBA calendar
- GC advised the latest meeting had to be cancelled and the date of its rescheduling has yet to be confirmed. Regarding the draft Calendar, MB to check with CK that the OBA are now aware of the change of Secretary.

Action -
MB

- 10 Collection of Annual Subscriptions
- GC confirmed this has now mostly been completed with just a handful of members likely not to renew. JM asked when the new calendar was likely to be printed and DW considered it would be in May at the latest.

- 11 Ratification of Handicaps for Pairs Competition
 There was a query regarding Maxine Henry and Kate Gould's handicap of 5 and GC proposed this should be amended to 7. This was agreed by the committee. 2 further queries were raised but IVM felt we were not in the best position to judge the accuracy of these handicaps. It was agreed that contact would be made with CK regarding these further queries. **Action - DW**
- 12 Showing Members' names on our website
 DW explained to the committee that having the same membership details on the website, as on the Club Calendar (without membership approval) was unwise and had led to one member asking for their details to be removed. The committee were not sure why all members' telephone numbers were needed on the website and it was agreed to limit the contact details to the Officers only. AS was happy for his e mail address to be printed and MB, DW and GC were happy for their telephone numbers to be supplied. The website will be amended to leave just these contact details only. **Action - DW**
- 13 Update on EBU Universal Membership for Clubs/Pay to play
 DW confirmed that at the next meeting we will probably be deciding on whether we sign the contract for the above. DW felt the area to discuss will be whether to raise the table fee to £2.00 to incorporate the additional 29p pay to play charge and this will be addressed at a future meeting. **Action - DW**
- 14 Any Other Business
- 1 - GC asked what the current position was regarding the appointment of a new shareholder for the OBA. IVM stated he was happy to continue to have his name put forward. IVM queried the mandate for being an OBA shareholder and KS considered this to be done by consent.
- 2 - GC explained to the Committee that Wallingford Bridge Club will be scrapping annual subscriptions next year and increasing table money to compensate for this. GC felt that this was not a step that Abingdon Bridge Club should follow, partly because Life members would no longer receive this privilege. AS suggested there would be no way to quantify the membership number and the Committee agreed to continue with an annual subscription.
- 3 - KS felt a number of the bidding boxes needed new pass cards or were not fully complete. KS offered to go through these in July. DW felt new pass cards would be a good idea and that the number of bidding boxes required could be discussed at the next meeting. JM asked about the storage facilities at the Hadland Road venue as there needs to be capacity to store 4 bridge tables, for Wessex league matches. JM suggested an alternative venue, St Michael's Church. DW suggested JM obtain details of this replacement venue so that the various merits of all possible locations can be discussed at the next meeting. **Action - JM/GC**
- 4 - GC reminded the committee about Bridgemate and asked if we can consider investing in this. DW advised there is now a replacement on the market at a similar price of £1500 - £2000. DW impressed the need on full planning before committing to buy (i.e. who is responsible for the equipment, setting up, etc). It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

5 - GC raised the issue of clearing up at the end of bridge sessions (including washing up, clearing away bidding boxes, travellers, etc and tables and chairs) as not enough players get involved. DW agreed to raise this at the next bridge evening (21 April 2009)

Action -
DW

The meeting closed at 21:23 with the next meeting planned for the 7 September 2009.