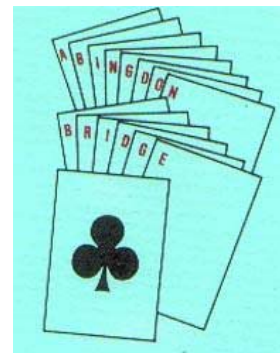


ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB



Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 23 November 2009,

7.30pm at 6 Champs Close, Abingdon

Present: David Walton (DW)(Chair); Mike Baker (MB)(Secretary); Jean Moore (JM); Brian Moore (BM)
Graham Simpson (GS); Gordon Carroll (GC).

1) Apologies for absence: Keith Sadler (KS), Andrew Speyer (AS) & Ian Van Maanen (IVM)

2) Minutes of 21st September 2009.

These were accepted.

3) Matters arising from the minutes.

Regarding point 10) GC confirmed the teams event organisation was progressing well.

Regarding point 13) it was noted that KS was not yet the club rep on the Long Furlong Management Committee.

4) Possible purchase of Bridgemate (or its equivalent)

GS outlined the 3 possible systems we could purchase:

I. Original Bridgemate (now at discounted prices)

II. Bridgemate 2, which has a larger display than the original

III. Bridgepad, which also has a large display but has batteries that only last a year

The merits of original Bridgemate were discussed and, as the screen is smaller and the system has now been replaced, it was agreed to reject this. Regarding the remaining 2 they looked very similar visually but Bridgemate 2 has slightly larger buttons for inputting information. Bridgemate 2's battery life is much longer but it is a new system and may suffer teething problems. Also, it is not possible to add names to the system yet, but this will be available with a free update in the future. GS also provided details about prices. Based on 11 tables worth of equipment the Bridgemate2 system would cost in the region of £1768 whereas the Bridgepad system would be £1480 plus a standard laptop computer. Obviously with Bridgemate2 in its infancy this price may well drop if significant orders are made in the near future. After thanking GS for his work in obtaining the details of the respective systems DW outlined the 3 choices that now lay before the committee:

Continue with no system

Purchase Bridgemate2

Purchase Bridgepad

GC confirmed that all the local clubs were now using a system and we ought not be "left behind".

GS queried the practical needs of the system (i.e. where would a table to put the laptop on be placed and where were the necessary power points?) During a quick discussion that followed these issues appeared to be possible to resolve. DW then went on to say he felt it may be a good time to buy soon with the 2 products vying with each other for future business. He felt the bigger buttons on Bridgemate2 was an important factor, to assist members with inputting information, and that may give it the edge over Bridgepad. GC and JM also felt Bridgemate2 was slightly better. DW felt the newness of Bridgemate2 was the real disadvantage, even though Bridgemate has had a good track record since it has been available on the market.

GC suggested it would be best to get full quotes from both and the general feeling was that the club should invest in one of the 2 systems. An earlier concern of IVM's that the director couldn't be the system operator was mentioned and it was agreed that this would not happen. It was also seen that with table money inevitably having to rise in the future some of the extra would go towards the cost of the new system. DW felt we could use an old laptop of KS's to run the system, if required.

There was a question about whether Scorebridge is compatible with both systems and GS agreed to check. It was agreed to defer the matter until the New Year and obtain quotes, to be available at the next meeting, in January 2010. It is possible the Bridgemate2 may already be cheaper by then. At the January meeting it is anticipated the decision about which system to use will be made. MB asked we check if all the parts on the Bridgemate2 system are definitely required as this may help reduce the final figure. Regarding the number of tables likely to use Bridgemate it was agreed the quote is for 12 tables. MB asked if it can be run with more tables and it was confirmed "yes, but some tables would have to share handsets".

Action:
GS

5) Arrangements for the Christmas party.

It was noted that the party is now only 2 weeks away and would be held at our usual venue but care would need to be taken to leave the room clean at the end (i.e. mop the floor, etc) as there would be food and drink.

Action:
DW/JM/
BM/GC

DW suggested we offer members the chance to bring food or contribute £5. JM collected this last year and agreed to do so again this year and DW agreed to obtain the food. The only concern about the party was the possibility that too many members would attend to be seated comfortably. It was agreed to play military bridge and DW would bring the flags and table cards and ask Clive Keep to direct. DW also confirmed he would buy the drinks, with a budget of around £100. We now need to hire glasses for the evening and BM agreed to investigate this. He felt we would need to buy something from, say, Tesco's or Sainsbury's in order to hire glasses from them but this may not be case. DW felt 25 wine glasses and 25 long drink glasses would be sufficient. Regarding the raffle, it was noted that KS and IVM ran this last year but KS will not be at the party this year. GC agreed to help. It is necessary to ask bridge club members for donations to the raffle and any suggestions about which charity the proceeds will go to and DW agreed to mention this over the next 2 club evenings.

6) Wessex league 2009/2010 home matches.

DW confirmed the lockable cupboard hasn't been set up yet and won't be ready for the forthcoming matches. The C team would, therefore, need to take tables from the club on 24/11/09 and collect the keys from DW on the same evening. There was query over tea and coffee items and other such items as drying cloth, etc. MB agreed to provide tea, coffee, milk and biscuits. Scorecards and bidding boxes would also need to be collected from the club on 24/11/09 and Chris Lloyd, the C team captain, would be notified.

Action:
MB

7) Arrangements for the Len Salmon trophy (29th November 2009).

GC confirmed the team had been selected and the drinks obtained. JM is dealing with the food and wondered if the protective table cloths could also be used for the Christmas party. This seemed a good idea and it prompted checking when Wallingford had their Christmas party, to check it did not clash with Abingdon's. It was discovered that Wallingford bridge club's party is on the 9 December 2009, the day after Abingdon's. There was a short discussion as to whether it was too late to move the Abingdon party to the 15th before agreeing to keep it at the 8th and making sure next year the 2 parties are on different weeks. DW agreed to discuss any difficulties with the food organisation with JM separately.

Action:
DW/JM

8) EBU's request for members' information following sign-up to pay-2-play.

There was a query as to why the EBU wanted this information and what to do if any members did not wish to provide this. The reason was seen as a way for club attendees to gain the benefits of paying the EBU to play (i.e. receiving the EBU magazine) and that non-completion of the form would just preclude the attendee from the benefits the EBU has to offer. MB confirmed, per a

Action:
GS/GC

letter the EBU had sent us, that the information needs to be in XML format and can be updated via Scorebridge. GS agreed to look into the Scorebridge side of this and GC agreed to arrange completion of the forms by those attending the club evenings.

9) Any other business.

BM suggested a change to the information we provide at the end of the club evening regarding the sheet with details of all the hands. He felt it would be useful to show the likely maximum number of tricks each side can make in each suit and the optimum contract. It was suggested we contact Steven Brown (who provides our pre-dealt hands) about this but was considered unnecessary as the system would change anyway with the introduction of Bridgepad or Bridgemate2. Whilst on the subject DW advised it may not be possible for him to always be the one to collect the pre-dealt boards from Steven Brown (when required) and that he may need help from others from time to time. There was a little thought given to the idea of electronically providing the pre-dealt card details to Bridgemate2 or Bridgepad.

At 9.02pm the meeting ended.