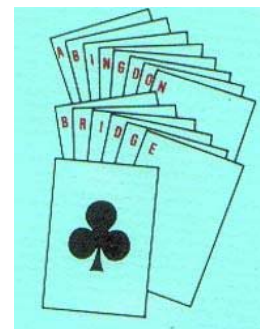


## ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB



Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 1 February 2010,

7.30pm at 6 Champs Close, Abingdon

Present: David Walton (DW)(Chair); Mike Baker (MB)(Secretary); Andrew Speyer (AS) (Treasurer); Jean Moore (JM); Brian Moore (BM) ; Gordon Carroll (GC).

- 1) Apologies for absence: Keith Sadler (KS), Graham Simpson (GS) & Ian Van Maanen (IVM)
- 2) Minutes of last meeting (23 November 2009).  
These were accepted.
- 3) Matters arising from those minutes.  
No matters that are not included below, though there was a query over the loss of an "individual" night on 5 January 2010, due to the weather. It was agreed that this year there would be just 11 nights when scores can be submitted for this competition.
- 4) The Purchase of Bridgemate 2/Bridgepad.  
DW outlined the costs of each system (Bridgemate 2 - £1911 + a laptop; Bridgepad - £1705) and noted that the laptop had been offered as a long term loan free of charge by KS. GC felt Bridgemate 2 was easier to set up as it enabled the EBU number to be input, which automatically added all other relevant data. GC, JM, BM and MB all felt Bridgemate 2 was the better system. JM asked what could be done about errors and GC advised the person sitting East always verified the score input by North and pressed the "return" key to input the score. It was also possible to spot some inaccuracies at the end of the evening with all data collated. DW asked if we could now proceed with the purchase of Bridgemate 2. MB asked if we should check the finances so the decision to buy was agreed in principle, subject to the information provided in the Treasurer's report later.

5) DW then turned to the issue of running the system on a club night. It would need to be a rota system as per the director's rota, initially with DW and GS running it but with others soon trained to be added to the rota. Suggested names to be added were GC, KS and Keith Robins (KR). Both KS and KR would need to be approached and consideration would be given to any other members wishing to be included. The question was also asked whether we should have just 1 movement (i.e. Howell, Mitchell, etc) for each number of tables, to make it easier with Bridgemate 2, or whether the Director should still have overall control. It was decided to discuss this further once the system is in place. BM then asked what happens if any part of the system fails during the evening and it was agreed that each pair should have a written scorecard to cross-reference. DW confirmed he would push ahead with the purchase in the near future.

Action – DW

6) Report from the latest OBA meeting and matters arising.  
AS attended the meeting and confirmed 3 issues that arose from it. Firstly, the "pay to play" (p2p) levy by the OBA would be 3p per person for the first 12 months, rising to 6p per person thereafter. The discounted rate of 3p per person is being funded in part by the OBA. Secondly, regarding Education and Training, the club may be approached by the OBA regarding its search for a replacement of Alison Nicholson. Thirdly, Clubs in Oxford would be encouraged to hold a heat of the County pairs, though this would not be mandatory. GC confirmed that Wallingford Club is thinking of holding a heat. There was a small discussion about issues concerning County pairs including the idea of having "closed heats" to prevent good players descending on a club and reducing the club's chances of sending their members to the semi-final. AS pointed out that players must make sure they play in their county of affiliation, to qualify. To finish, AS also advised the decision regarding the fates of the Menagerie and Highworth was deferred until the next meeting.

7) Treasurer's Report:

Draft Financial Statement.

AS outlined our current financial position, with £2993 in the deposit account, which includes £1000 table fund. GC asked if we needed to add a further £120 to this and DW felt we did as the good quality tables are around that price each. MB enquired how much of the Current Account balance of £1110 could be added to the deposit account. AS said the balance of the Current Account does go as low as £300 and that there wasn't really any money in there that could be "put away". Generally, though, the Accounts were seen as very good with a modest profit following on from a loss in 2008. This was due to an increase in attendance and a reduction in rent.

Projections for 2010 including p2p.

AS made projections for 2010, including the p2p levy and saving of master points costs. The club would find it difficult to break even, based on no increase in the subs but could make a comfortable profit if the subs were increased by 50p per person. MB suggested we increase the subs soon, to guarantee our financial position, especially in view of the expenditure we face with Bridgemate 2. GC proposed the increase and MB seconded it. DW asked the other members if they were in agreement with this. JM felt we should consider a £1 increase to bring us in line some of the local clubs but it was generally felt this was not essential and may be detrimental to numbers. The decision to increase subs by 50p to £2 for members and £3 for visitors from April 2010 was carried.

Bridgemate 2 financing.

AS confirmed this issue had been partly dealt with already but he asked about

the ease at which we can withdraw money from the Deposit Account. DW felt it could be done over the telephone as long as the money was transferred into the Current Account, as the 2 Accounts are linked together. AS then asked when the money should be transferred. MB felt, as there was currently negligible interest on the Deposit Account, the transfer could take place without delay. DW checked no one had objections to this and it was agreed the transfer of monies would take place as soon as was convenient for AS. DW agreed to receive the Bridgemate 2 order when it was dispatched.

Action – AS

Sundries.

AS confirmed he has received an invoice for outstanding rent for the Hadland Road location but there are no dates to show the period of time the rent applies to. MB suggested we send the cheque with the dates we consider it applies to. DW felt the invoice we had was probably all we would get and he knew the dates that the invoice (for £150) applied to – 10 nights, for the league season 2008 to 2009. DW was happy for this to be explained in writing when the cheque was sent, to resolve the issue. AS also confirmed that he had received no contributions from any of the 3 league teams for rent for this season. It was generally felt better to calculate the amounts each team member owes at the end of the season and then pass these on in full settlement to AS. AS then provided £10 expenses to both MB and DW. DW declined this offer. Finally AS asked about the p2p levy concerning events that didn't attract subs (e.g. Len Salmon trophy, the Christmas party). We would need to bear in mind that we may need to still pay the EBU, unless the evening is exempt under the EBU's guidelines.

8) A.G.M. on 16 March 2010.

Arrangements can now be put in place, with 2 week's notice necessary for the membership. GC confirmed that notice of the A.G.M. needs to go on the Notice board by 2 March, together with a list of nominations for any of the Committee posts. DW has the draft documents, which he will e mail to MB, to provide for the notice board. DW suggested a 7.15 start so that more people will attend. MB asked if 7pm would be better, so that the bridge play was less affected but DW promised to push the meeting through swiftly and that the larger attendance would be more beneficial than an earlier finish. The issues of p2p and Bridgemate 2 are resolved and it is a notification process at the A.G.M. rather than a discussion. DW confirmed he would send round a draft agenda for people to add any items to. MB asked, regarding the host system, if there was a default plan should no one sign up as host. GC asked if all the current committee members were happy to stand for re-election. GC, MB, DW, AS, JM and BM all assented that they were, though no one could speak for GS, KS and IVM. DW felt that even if all 3 of them wished to continue we should still look to add 1 more to the Committee as some posts will need to be filled by new members in a year's time.

Action:  
DW/MB

9) Appointment of a new Life member.

DW proposed we make GC a life member. MB seconded this and it was carried. Following a discussion about other Life members and those with restricted mobility it was suggested more effort were made to ensure those who didn't wish to move each round because of restricted mobility were given stationary positions in the movement.

10) Review of the Christmas party.

DW felt it had gone very well with plenty of food and drink. GC agreed and also drew attention to the excellent efforts of JM and others at the Len Salmon trophy where the food was also excellent. GC also commented on the large number of players available for the match. JM did mention we need to ensure players are not left out of teams, with the larger pool of players to choose from, as this may well have happened. No one had any negative feedback to report regarding the Christmas party.

11) Wessex league matches where there is ice or snow.

DW told about a match that had to be cancelled because a team player was unable to attend (due to snow). The notice was too late as some players had already arrived at the venue to play. DW suggested captains make a decision regarding conditions no later than 5.30pm and that captains err on the side of caution when doing so. JM asked if we are insured for the Wessex league should someone fall due to slippery conditions at the Hadland Road site. It looks as if it would be the club's responsibility so even more reason to be cautious. The Committee were happy to let DW e mail the team captains with the new arrangements.

Action – DW

12) Update on the Hadland Road venue.

DW confirmed the cupboard is now in place and in use. The key is on the same fob as the front door key. All that now needs to be taken for a match is milk and biscuits (and possibly spare tea and coffee, just in case they run out). Scorecards, cups, tables and chairs are all there all of the time. GC did have a query about tea towels as 6 he has brought have mostly all disappeared. DW wanted to purchase 5 new bidding boxes, which was agreed. Whilst on the subject, GC suggested sit-out pairs on club nights could help check the bidding boxes, tidy up loose "bids", etc.

13) Any other business.

GC asked if we can remind players to help tidy up at the end of the evenings and DW agreed. JM asked if there could be other volunteers to help with the tea and coffee on club nights. It was agreed to ask at the A.G.M. for volunteers, though DW said he had wished to have no part in the tea and coffee arrangements, at the previous A.G.M. MB asked if we needed to take any further action regarding Clive Keep's (CK) e mail (27/8/09) about the future of the club website. The Committee were happy for CK to continue running the web site and were very happy with the current layout.

At 9.35pm the meeting ended.