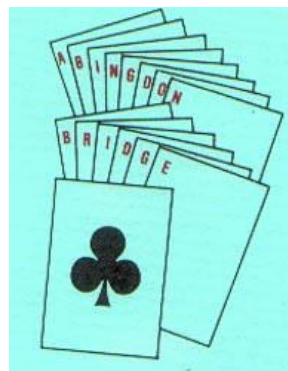


## ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB



Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 10 May 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) Graham Simpson (GS); Gordon Carroll (GC); John Rowe (JR); Ian Van Maanen (IVM).

1. Welcome to the new Committee Member.

JR was welcomed into the Committee.

2. Apologies for absence: Keith Sadler (KS)

3. Minutes of the last meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2010).

These were accepted.

4. Matters arising from those minutes.

DW referred to item 11, regarding the procedure for Wessex League matches when there is snow or ice. DW will contact the team captains in September to discuss this.

Action:DW

5. Club calendar for 2010/2011 (draft circulated).

DW had been notified of a few adjustments to dates and will change these for the final copy. GC advised there was a query over the date of the County Pairs heat and he was awaiting OBA confirmation of the date in due course. The issue of names to be removed from the list on the calendar was raised and DW confirmed it was anyone who hadn't paid this year or last. GS will update this. DW also mentioned he'd picked the 13 December 2011 for the date of the Christmas party, though it is unknown if this clashes with Wallingford's Christmas party or not.

Action:  
DW/GC/GS

6. Allocation of the tasks for the year.

- Membership Secretary – GS to take over from GC
- Collection/Engraving of trophies in Jan/Feb 2011 (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 (AS, GC, IVM)
- Law and Ethics Committee (CK, MPS, JC) There was a little discussion about whether all members would wish to remain on the Committee and DW proposed leaving things as they are with MB emailing CK to check he is happy to coordinate the Committee, should it be required.
- Wessex League Selection Committee (GC, GS, CK)

Action:MB

- Len Salmon Trophy (GC, no catering this year)
  - Director's rota (DW)
  - Duplimate boards. Currently these are provided by Stephen Brown for a number of Oxfordshire Bridge clubs, including Abingdon, but this will cease at the end of May. There may be help available later in the year and there are duplimate machines at local clubs but it was considered best to raise this issue at the next Committee meeting and wait and see what action the O B A takes in the interim regarding finding a way to supply the Oxfordshire clubs with duplimate cards.
  - Providing of Tea, Coffee, etc for club nights (JM, BM)
  - Bridgemate responsibility – this will be discussed later in the meeting
- When discussing the club scorers responsibility, GC had a query whether masterpoints going direct to the EBU was working as the updates hadn't appeared on members profiles. GS felt the EBU were currently overwhelmed with this and that the updates should follow in due course.

#### 7. Collection of Annual Subscriptions

GS confirmed that 60 members had paid, with a few still to renew. The likely membership total this year will be around 70.

#### 8. Review of Bridgemate use within the club.

DW told the meeting of the difficulties he experienced last week when for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in about 10 weeks the computer "locked up" during play. On the previous 3 times the information in the handsets had still been able to be retrieved but on this occasion the data was lost and DW will now need to input the information manually, using players' scorecards – a time-consuming operation! These difficulties are making it hard to use the system and DW wondered if the laptop is to blame. He will try another computer on Tuesday to see if there is any problem. JR offered his help on any computer-related queries. IVM queried what we do when the system fails and GC confirmed it was individual scorecards for each pair. Moving onto training, DW confirmed he wanted the system problem-free before attempting to train others. At the moment either DW or GS must attend, to run the system and it is hoped a 3<sup>rd</sup> person can be trained in the future. 2 potential candidates are JR and Keith Robins (KR). Finally, DW proposed increasing the number of handsets to 14, in line with the club's proposed maximum seating plan. We would need 2 new handsets at a cost of around £240. AS responds to this request in the next agenda item.

Action:DW

#### 9. Treasurer's report

Regarding the request for £240 in funding for 2 new handsets, AS confirmed funding would be available but asked if this could be delayed by around a month. AS asked if there would be further expenditure if a new lap top was required to run Bridgemate. JR offered a laptop for free and DW confirmed the club could use his laptop while the Bridgemate problems are being ironed out, though he will need it back. The issue will be discussed further in the future. AS had nothing else to report.

#### 10. Ratification of handicaps for Pairs Competition.

GS confirmed how CK calculates the handicaps (using an average of previous scores). GC asked about new pairings and DW advised it is an average each player's scores when with other partners. CK's handicaps for 2010 were agreed.

#### 11. Review of the Host system.

DW referred to a question asked at the AGM where it was asked why we don't allocate specific weeks for each member without giving a choice. IVM wasn't

sure making the job of host compulsory would be a good thing and asked what other clubs do. The general consensus was that few make it compulsory and that it wasn't a good idea to make it compulsory at Abingdon. DW added a further concern that some players may not come unless the host was someone they felt happy playing with. The Committee then considered ways to increase the number of booked in hosts in the future. MB suggested getting most of the members to add their names long-term to the rota, maybe once or twice a year, and then using a dedicated group to do extra turns as host to fill in any gaps. GC felt we needed to push the adding of names to the rota more often. DW suggested we don't run a host on the pairs competition evenings and GC agreed to canvass more volunteers for the list, over the next few club nights. GC also made the point that if there are 4 separate individuals it is better to pair up players of similar ability. AS considered it should be on a first-come first-served basis and, after a small discussion, it was agreed with AS.

Action:GC

#### 12. Report from the recent O B A meeting.

AS gave a brief resume of what had been discussed at the meeting, which was mainly to do with teams in the Leagues that are not from clubs affiliated to the EBU. The 2 of these in question are the Menagerie and Highworth. The Menagerie are likely to be able to continue, under certain conditions, and Highworth will need to affiliate to the OBA to continue. No new teams will be given these concessions. AS confirmed that Abingdon's Alternative Club will also need to reaffiliate to continue in division 5 and that there is the potential for new members to our club if some of the Alternative club's members don't support the direction the club is moving in. GC asked AS about any decision regarding County Pairs. AS replied that there had been a discussion at the meeting about this and it was agreed to let clubs decide if they wished to host a heat or not. It was also agreed that players did not necessarily have to compete at the club they were a member of. GC asked how we would deal with too many players arriving on a club night and DW suggested we cover this under Any Other Business.

#### 13. Review of Premises for Wessex matches.

DW asked if we should consider a new site for our league matches. GC mentioned that the heating had been switched off on cold evenings, causing a problem and there was also an issue about the quality of the ladies toilets. MB felt there were good things about using Hadland Road. The general agreement was that we continue for another year at least and review the matter again in the future. DW suggested contacting the Hadland Road representative about the heating issue, in September.

Action:DW

#### 14. Any Other Business.

GC suggested we add a 4th team to the Wessex league teams. DW suggested GC sound out other players to see if a 4<sup>th</sup> team would be viable. GC also asked if everyone was happy with the current league captains. The general consensus was that the captains do a difficult job and that it would be best to continue as before. GC also raised the question of turning away players once the club had reached full capacity. GS suggested manual scoring when there are 13 or 14 tables in play. MB asked if we have tried a 14 table layout to see if it works and GC confirmed that had been done. Regarding the issue of turning away players, IVM and GS both felt pairs that arrived late would lose the chance to play. GC wondered if non-members should give way to members but DW felt he could not send away non-members who'd arrived early just because members had turned up later. It was agreed to review any policy if 14 tables are required on any kind of regular basis.

Action:GC

JM suggested we have a cup for the Teams competition. DW asked if JM and BM could find out the likely prices for cups for the next meeting. There followed a general comment about how good it was to have 12 teams in the Teams competition.

At 9.17pm the meeting closed.

