

Amersham Bridge Club

MINUTES

Meeting via Zoom

Monday April 15th 2024 at 5 pm.

Present: Simon Husband Chairman: Sue Brown Secretary: Cath Topliff Treasurer: Dick Davey:  
Mark Wilce

1. Meetings and Minutes
  - a) Minutes of the last meeting for approval. Agreed as a true record
  - b) Matters arising
    - Play with Experts. Continues as a work in progress with a list of 12 members prepared to act as experts. Possible participants discussed. It was agreed to explore interest from golf clubs (SB) Student and Graduate Leagues (SH) non-affiliated clubs (MW). The format to be teams made up of 2 experts with a pivot at half time.
2. Membership update SB
  - Applications for membership. 1 new member approved.
  - CT reported 37 membership renewals to date
3. Finance Update. CT presented the accounts for the year. A small loss was noted due in part to an increase in rent and membership fees due to the Community Centre. The BBCBA proposal to increase charges for the LO8 were discussed in detail. In general, it was felt reasonable for the club to pay the fees in full bearing in mind that those participating represent at least 50% of the membership. The NICKO will continue to be subsidised by 50%. These changes should form part of the Chairman's Report at the AGM. It was felt important to request that any member wishing to represent the club should be able to put their name forward.
4. AGM preparations. SB reported that all club members had been contacted with the agenda which is also on the website. SH will present his report on the club year followed by CT with finance details. SH requested that an updated report on trophies and winners be available  
**ACTION SB/SH/CT**
5. LO8 Teams update
  - a) A Team DD reported an excellent year for the A team winning all matches and topping the League with a match to spare. The team will go on to represent the County in the Garden Cities tournament to be held in May at Richmond BC. The A v B team had been a F2F match with DD providing the biscuits. SH congratulated DD on an excellent season.
  - b) B Team SH reported that the B team had finished around mid-league with an average scoring > 10. Jeff Green is stepping down as captain
  - c) C Team MW reported 1 match still to be played but an expected finish mid league and an average score of >10.
  - d) Team projections for next season. The club will continue to field 3 teams in the coming LO8 season. Both A and C teams have 5 and 6 regular pairings respectively The B team needs a new captain following the withdrawal of Jeff Green who however will continue to represent the club. SH /SB discussed the possible sharing of

- responsibilities with SH supporting the technical issues and SB the fixture administration. SH and SB agreed to meet for further discussions. **ACTION SB/SH.**
6. Trophy dates for next season. Not discussed as dates not received by the committee. SB will forward after the meeting but a list had been prepared of trophy dates rolling over from the previous season by Don. SB felt this to be the most straightforward solution but proposed relocating the Waller Bowl Qualifier away from the Championship Pairs  
**ACTION SB.**
  7. Speed of play and finishing time. The importance of starting the evening session on time was emphasised. As a courtesy to the director players should aim to be seated well before the starting time. SH agreed to include this in his Report to the AGM. Directors are also responsible for ensuring a consistent speed of play and issuing a warning notice when on the last board. Should play commence on time and the directors keep a watchful eye then there should be no reason for a late finish. SB will monitor finishing time over the next few months.  
**ACTION SB**
  8. Equipment review SB raised the possibility of having a dedicated cupboard for the Bridge equipment. This was agreed in principal but would need the permission of the Centre Manager. SB will explore. Playing cards have recently been replaced but SH confirmed that he still has a supply at home when needed  
**ACTION SB**
  9. Directors. 2 club members who are qualified directors have offered their services on an ad hoc basis. SH expressed his own interest in participating in an EBU Club Directors Course. He will explore possibilities and costs  
**ACTION SH**
  10. AOB. None
  11. Date of next meeting  
Agreed Monday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm via Zoom.

Minutes prepared by  
Sue Brown  
Secretary Amersham BC  
16/4/2024