

**Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting  
Sat 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024, 0930hrs, on Zoom**

**AGENDA**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Janine Curwell and Janet Jagan.

**2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting, held 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.

**3. Follow up from 2024 AGM**

- a. Membership Survey – now complete, and Carolyn has produced the results. Carolyn took the meeting through the findings, which generally showed most people were happy with the way the Club is being run. There was a lot of support for our Improvers/Charity nights, and the Thursday relaxed duplicate sessions. Carolyn has produced a document setting out the results, which will be posted on the website. **ACTION Jim**
- b. Views from membership on what priorities we should have on spending our money – we will email membership for their views, in time to collate results and comments before the next AGM. This will be done around the year end. **ACTION Jim**

**4. Finances**

In the absence of Janet there was no detailed discussion. Jim commented that our accounts remain healthy. The Committee was content to leave this item until the next meeting.

**5. Other items of expenditure/ improvements**

- a. Signage at Alford Hall: the location and permission have been agreed with Alford Hall. We agreed that Jim would proceed to order.  
**ACTION Jim** (Note-after the meeting, the sign has now been ordered)
- b. Tennis Club banner. This has been terminated, and we have the banner in our possession (with Mike).
- c. Buying tables, along with u3a and Alford: Now complete, and an excellent improvement to the bridge room.
- d. Ian Douglas has enquired whether he might have some of our old tables, for use at Birchwood & Croft Bridge Club, if we are going to dispose of them. The Committee do need to retain some, as sometimes our room is not available eg election days. However, the Committee agreed that it's OK in principle, as we now have too many, eg the wooden/ green baize card table type. Ian will have a look, and propose what he'd like to take. **ACTION Ian**

## 6. **Publicity**

- a. EBU festival of bridge "Bridge is a Big Deal":
  - i. The EBU festival week itself is early September. We have already agreed we will dedicate our Improvers/charity night on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September to this, ie CRUK.
  - ii. We discussed ideas, including running a demo Mini-bridge session in a local café. However, the Committee didn't think this would be effective. We could put on such a demo at u3a enrolment day on Wed 4<sup>th</sup> September, but there might be a shortage of room to do it.
- b. Posters and flyers: these need to be modified to show Malcolm's new email address.  
**ACTION Jim**
- c. Facebook/ local press:
  - i. Ian has already posted on the Facebook page "What's on in Warrington", in July and August. He will repeat on 1<sup>st</sup> September. **Action Ian**
  - ii. The idea of posting on the online "Warrington Worldwide" has been abandoned, due to lack of response.
- d. Essential Guide (freebie to households every 2 months): this has already been sorted, so we have an entry in the What's On section. Ian will keep an eye on this to ensure it's not accidentally dropped. It is working OK at present. **Action Ian.**
- e. The Committee discussed how learning to play bridge is a great option not only for any age, but particularly for retired people, especially those who live alone, as it addresses the need to for social contact and making friends, as well as mental stimulation and challenge. We should be making GP's in the Warrington area aware of what we offer. Mike, as a retired GP, is in a good position to know how best we might make that happen. To be discussed next time, with ideas from Mike. **ACTION Mike**

## 7. **BWS Matters /joint on-line bridge with Antrobus BC**

- a. BWS: the one weekly session, on Friday evenings, remains successful, and generates a consistent small revenue. No need to change anything.
- b. The joint sessions with Antrobus on Tuesday evenings started on 2<sup>nd</sup> July as planned. So far it is viable, though we need to build numbers.

## 8. **F2F activities and Calendar**

- a. The summer programme is in full swing and working well, with 6 or more tables for relaxed duplicate, jointly with u3a, on Thursday mornings. There have been no issues with TD, with Ian, Jim, and Malcolm sharing the load.
- b. New classes: these are on Thursday mornings, starting on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Beginners and Improvers are run by u3a at the Olive Tree, Penketh, and Intermediates are run by WBC at Alford Hall. The u3a enrolment day is Wed 4<sup>th</sup> September at Winmarleigh House, but Andrew already has significant interest for his beginners class. Jim and Hilary are intending to support the bridge enrolment.
- c. The Monday TD rota is working well, led by David Burrows.
- d. With the new tables in place, there is less work to do setting up. Mike and Jim share the Monday evening opening up duties, and will approach others to do it on an ad hoc basis when neither is going to be there.
- e. The next Improvers/Charity night is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September (EBU Festival of Bridge, in aid of CRUK). This will be advertised on the website and at the start of upcoming sessions.  
**ACTION Jim**

## 9. Education/ teaching

- a. Intermediate lessons: Ian has delivered several, and is happy doing it. Jim and Ian will work out a rota for 2024/25 to cover absences. **ACTION Jim/Ian**
- b. Help on Thursday mornings for the Intermediate course is invaluable, for play of the prepared hands. Carolyn and Brigitte in particular have helped a lot. We will look to getting this in place for the new lessons starting in September.
- c. Having suggested auctions on the travellers for the prepared hands has been very popular. We will look at a more streamlined system for doing this, to make it less laborious work every week. **ACTION Jim**
- d. Numbers for the Intermediate course: we are expecting around 14 to move up from Improvers. Also, some people will want to repeat all or part of the course, eg for lessons they missed when away. Some people have said they would like to repeat, but are away at the same time each year, so would miss the same lessons. Jim will therefore look to shuffling the lesson order somewhat, to mitigate this problem. **ACTION Jim**
- e. Training for TD's: Mike, Jim, Malcolm R, and Ian attended a short course at Antrobus on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Jim was actioned to produce a crib sheet for TD rulings on the most common infractions. This has been done. (Available from Jim; also it's on the website, here: [Warrington Bridge Club, Warrington \(bridgewebs.com\)](http://Warrington Bridge Club, Warrington (bridgewebs.com)))
- f. Training for bridge teaching (Jim/Ian)
  - i. Continue to look for suitable course (venue/timing). We agreed that the Club should fund this.
  - ii. Jim mentioned another useful exercise, which is to attend a lesson given by another experienced teacher. Jim will provide details to Ian, eg Pauline Smyth at Middlewich. **ACTION Jim**
  - iii. Ian agreed to ask Nicky Bainbridge if she would visit & deliver a teacher training session. Hopefully, at least 5 of us would be interested - Jim, Malcolm, Andrew, David Simmers, Ian Douglas. **ACTION Ian**

## 10. Scoring software

- a. Ian has been working with the developer of BridgeGem, to iron out problems and make it workable for scoring our sessions with Bridgemates. A first trial on 15<sup>th</sup> August was not successful, because the Bridgemate Player Numbers did not map across. He is shortly going to be ready to have a second trial, on a Thursday relaxed duplicate session. **ACTION Ian**
- b. As previously discussed, we are not keen to adopt EBU Score: although it's free to us as an EBU affiliated club, and we pay a modest fee for Scorebridge, the Committee saw little merit in moving from the system we know (Scorebridge) to EBU score, as it's very different and would require significant training.

## 11. New EBU service email results to players

This has recently been introduced by the EBU, where after each EBU-affiliated session, each player gets an automated email setting out how they did, and the change in their NGS grade, and any Master Points awarded. We can opt out as a Club, or individuals can opt out if they don't want to receive them. We will put some advice on the website. **ACTION Jim**

## 12. AOB None.

## 13. Date of Next Meeting

Provisionally arranged for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 930am, on Zoom.  
Malcolm suggested we include, on the agenda, selection of our 2025 charity.