

**Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting**  
**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 0930hrs, on Zoom**

**AGENDA**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Janet Jagan and Brenda Newton.

**2. Minutes of previous Committee meeting, held 20<sup>th</sup> April 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. The Committee has already agreed to hold the next AGM face to face. We will aim to have it on a Monday evening Improvers/Charity night, to boost attendance.
- b. Membership Survey – the response rate has been disappointing. Some people have had technical issues completing on-line and sending the response electronically. Carolyn will issue another reminder **Action Carolyn**; Jim will print some more copies for hard copy responses, and make available on Mondays and Thursdays. **Action Jim**. We will discuss the findings at the next meeting. **Agenda item- Jim**
- c. 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. **Action Jim**

**4. Finances**

In the absence of Janet there was no detailed discussion. However, things are proceeding without any alarms, so the Committee was happy to leave this until next time.

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

- a. Signage at Alford Hall- update – Mike reported there was some difficulty in getting the right arrangement for posts/attaching the sign. Jim agreed to work with Mike to get this resolved and get a sign erected. **Action Jim/Mike**.
- b. Tennis Club banner- the current 6 months still has a bit to run, but in the absence of evidence that it is generating any response, we will draw stumps after the current period has ended. **Action Mike**
- c. Buying tables, along with u3a and Alford. This would be helpful to us, as it would remove the need to set out tables. The ball is in Alford Hall's court, and they know that both u3a and WBC are going to fund the purchase of 6 square tables each, but they will have to dispose of all their existing wooden tables. We will check with Jess what their proposed timescale is. **Action Mike**

**6. Publicity**

- a. EBU festival of bridge "Bridge is a Big Deal":
  - i. We discussed ideas. One is to have a table sometime during the Stockton Heath festival (4-7 July), with a team of 4 playing bridge, some flyers to hand out, and invite people to sit down and have a go (maybe mini-bridge) **Action Mike/Ian**. (some people will unfortunately be away that week, including Jim & Hilary). Another idea is to have a table in a café (eg Jenny Wren's in SH) on a few occasions, again with flyers to hand out, and again to invite people to sit in and have a go. Jim will update the flyer, for new classes starting in September. **Action Jim**
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. The EBU has been issuing periodic email updates on the festival of bridge. Jim will circulate to committee members for information. **Action Jim**

- b. Facebook/ local press:
  - i. We will look to putting an item on the Facebook page “What’s on in Warrington”. **Action Ian**
  - ii. We will look to offering an article to the online Warrington Worldwide. **Action Ian**
  - iii. Advertorial: we will consider submitting copy to the Warrington Guardian, eg for 2024 results/prize winners. This would be early 2025.
- c. 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. **Action Ian.**

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

- a. BWS: Jim shared the spreadsheet for BWS. Now that the loss-making Monday session has folded, and the Friday RealBridge session remains successful, overall BWS is making a small financial contribution.
- b. Proposed new Tuesday evening on-line session, jointly with Antrobus: detailed arrangements have been proposed, to start on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. It will not be an EBU affiliated session, and there will be no paid TD, so the costs will be low. The charge per session will be £1 per player. The Committee agreed we will go ahead. We will advertise on the website, and email members. **Action Jim**

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

- a. The final lesson of the course is Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June; start again Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. The summer programme begins on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, but we will not have the Festival Suite that day, as it’s election day. We will be upstairs. There will be a morning session, run by Malcolm Roberts and Andrew Young, but only a casual session (no duplicate). The equipment (but not the wheely box, so no laptop) will be taken up the evening before by Malcolm and Andrew. We will need to make sure it’s put back on the Friday morning. **Action Malcolm.** Note Jim & Hilary are not here that day.
- b. Thursday sessions over the summer: from 11<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> September, we will have a relaxed duplicate pairs in the morning, with one or two tables for those who don’t want to play in the duplicate. The TD/scorer will be Jim/Ian/Malcolm as available.
- c. Monday evening sessions will continue over the summer period as normal. David reported that the TD rota is sorted, at least for July. We need to nominate someone to open up, set out tables, etc on Monday evenings, on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> August, and 19<sup>th</sup> August, when Jim is not available. One option is to ask Alford Hall to set out the tables for us. **Action Mike**
- d. The next Improvers/Charity night Mon 15<sup>th</sup> July- advertising to members and to u3a in absence of Jim: Action Ian/Carolyn to issue email reminder **Action Ian/Carolyn**, and to mention at the sessions on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July (**Action David**) and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July (**Action Malcolm**)

## 9. **Education/ teaching**

- a. Thursday mornings have worked well, with Carolyn attending when Mike was away, and Brigitte also helping. Ian has now delivered lessons successfully, and is happy doing it. The idea of including suggested auctions on the prepared hand travellers has been well received. We will continue this on the next course.
- b. Expected numbers: we expect about 14 to come up from Improvers to Intermediates. Andrew has 9 names already for the beginners course in September.
- c. Training for TD’s: Mike, Jim, Malcolm R, and Ian attended a short course at Antrobus on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Jim will produce a crib sheet for TD rulings on the most common infractions. **Action Jim**
- d. Training for bridge teaching (Jim/Ian)- look for suitable course (venue/timing). We agreed that the Club should fund this.

**10. Scoring software**

- a. Perceived issues with Scorebridge/Bridgemate interface. Should we look at changing from Scorebridge? The issues appeared to be whenever an attempted change is made after the system has been started. We agreed that the TD on the night will not allow latecomers to play, if it would mean restarting the system, as this means everyone has to wait around while the movement etc is reset.
- b. BridgeGem trial not implemented as yet. Ian reported that a new version of BridgeGem had come out, that he wants to try. He still needs to see whether the suggestion that the Bridgemate control software can directly import .pbn files works for us. He proposes to try it all at the club on a system connected to the Bridgemate server, which he hopes to do on a Thursday pm, after a summer morning session. He is still hopeful for BridgeGem, but commented that it's not one scoring system or the other; we can have both, with individual TD's choosing which they prefer to use.
- c. Adopting 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. AOB** None.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

Provisionally arranged for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 930am, on Zoom.