

Minutes of BBL AGM 27th July 2023 7.30pm held on Zoom.

Attendees:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Club Representatives</u>
Dave Lee (DL), Aerospace Joyce Baldock (JB), Aerospace Dave Green (DG), Ascot Michelle Margetts (MM), Ascot John Sheridan (JS), Crowthorne David Pinder (DP), Camberley	Dave Calcutt (DC), Ascot Pennie MacKenzie (PM), Camberley and Yateley & Hawley

Voting rights:

Ascot, DC, 2 votes

Bracknell Forest, by Proxy (DL), 1 vote

Finchampstead, by Proxy (MM), 1 vote

PM 2 votes as representing 2 clubs

All others, 1 vote.

1. Apologies.

Ian Adnams, Finchampstead.

Margaret Eddy, Crowthorne

Derek Thornton, Bracknell Forest

2. Chairman's opening remarks

DL thanked everyone for coming and explained the Zoom time limit/process to reconnect. He confirmed the voting rights above.

3. The minutes of the 2022 AGM were proposed (DC) and seconded (JB). They will be signed when possible.

4. Matters Arising

JB explained the situation regarding the EBU/BBO charge for matches played appears to have now been resolved. The EBU are no longer charging for matches played on BBO, and so some clubs are due a refund for payments made to BBL in anticipation there being a EBU/BBO charge in 21-22. This is £8 per team for the season if they played their matches on BBO. They can apply to JB for a refund, providing their bank details when doing so.

No other matters arising.

5. Secretary's Report

MM remarked that this year had been her first full year in the role and that it had been mainly one of minute-taking and fielding email inquiries to other committee members. Most recently a fairly detailed inquiry from Barry Read (Ascot) concerning the Pivot cup handicap calculations, which was thoroughly answered by DP with an even more detailed response! No other correspondence of note.

6. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

JB presented the financial accounts for the 15month period to 30 June 2023. Clearly the comparison with prior year accounts is distorted by the extra three months – for example we have extra expenditure incurred in the period April-June 2023 and we have income from two EOSP events in the financial accounts for this period. We made a small loss for this 15-month period of £261, however JB noted that we have cash in the bank account so she is not concerned. We made a profit on the EOSP evening for 2023 of £40 and for the 22-23 league of £159. PM asked if we would expect to make a loss in the next year. JB confirmed that we would not, and that the overall loss for the period was purely the result of changing the accounting period.

The EOSP entrance fee of £5pp was right– it covered the cost and was easy to collect. However, the EOSP will need to be brought forward to May next year so that there is adequate time for the EBU to invoice the P2P for that event.

The accounts were proposed (JB) and seconded (DC). A copy of the accounts is included as an annex to the minutes.

League fees for the 2023-24 season will remain at £26 per team. All approved this.

7. Appointment of Accounts examiner

Adrian Smith has reviewed the accounts and he will be thanked in the usual way, although with a slightly better bottle this year as there was additional work arising from the change in accounting year end. JB stated that Adrian is happy to continue to do this next year.

8. League Fixture Secretary's Report

This year we had 21 teams in the league, and ideally we'd have had seven in each division. However given the NGS ratings of the members of the new team (Loddon Vale) they were admitted to Division 1, which resulted in eight teams in that division this year. DG remarked that this decision was vindicated as Loddon finished comfortably mid-table. However we all agreed that eight teams in Div 1 resulted in too many matches which were difficult to complete for many teams, so this will not be repeated. However there was actually only one match un-played at the end of the season, which was scored using the league rules for un-played matches, as it didn't affect the result of the league or relegations from the division.

The results of the league this year were:

Division 1: won by Ascot A. Ascot C and Camberley B are relegated.

Division 2: Won by Crowthorne who are now promoted. Ascot D relegated along with Bracknell Forest B who withdrew mid-season.

Division 3: Won by Camberley A who are promoted.

Congratulations to the winning teams.

DG emphasised the point that we strongly encourage all matches to be played over 24 boards, across all divisions where at all possible (both FTF and on-line) as 24 board matches gives more consistent results. We all agreed with this point.

DL asked if we had needed to refer any issues to EBU directors during the year. DG confirmed that we had asked Tim Rees for an adjudication a couple of times during the year and on both occasions his ruling had been accepted by both teams without issue.

Entries for 2023-24 are due by 11 August.

9. Pivot Secretary's Report

DL reported that there were 12 entries to the Pivot Cup in 2022-23, which was three up on the previous year, although Loddon Vale withdrew before the first round. Matches ran over at the end of the season slightly, but the final was played on 10th May and won by Bracknell Forest (Lac) team for the first time. DL stated that although 12 entries was better than the previous year it was still disappointing, and we need at least 8 teams to have a Pivot competition.

We had one match with an issue where Tim Rees was contacted for a ruling. The match was played on BBO and 'barometer scoring' was left on and visible throughout the match, which meant that on the last board the teams knew exactly what they had to do to win the match. Tim determined that no change to the result was required in this instance. However, this is a reminder to all teams that play any matches on BBO to make sure 'barometer scoring' is switched off in the settings before the match starts.

The Pivot rules have been updated on the website to reflect the current hybrid league structure.

Entries for 2023-24 are due by 17 August.

10. End of Season Pairs

This was held FTF this year for the first time since 2019 In Brownlow Hall. Overall this was a success, although the turnout was a bit disappointing (we had nine tables). DL commented that five clubs didn't have any participants in the event.

DL thanked Ascot Bridge Club for their contribution – both for providing the majority of players for the event and also for their considerable help in the logistics of the event – venue, director support, boards. Brownlow Hall is considered a good venue with plenty of playing space and ample parking.

We will hold the event in late May rather than early June next year.

11. Overview of Issues & Proposals for 2023-24 Season.

DL explained the background to the proposals.

FTF vs on-line.

The committee have been made aware that some teams would like to play more matches FTF in the forthcoming season, and we acknowledged that FTF is coming back into bridge, although a number of clubs hold both FTF and on-line sessions, and some are now only on-line clubs. The committee had decided that we can't mandate FTF matches in the BBL as we would lose a number of teams if we did this, so we will continue with the current hybrid structure where on-line bridge (on RealBridge or BBO) is the default in the event that teams can't agree whether to play FTF or on-line. However we acknowledge the social benefits of playing FTF bridge and would encourage teams to play FTF where possible.

The rules have been amended slightly to reflect this. Rule 1.2 now has an extra bullet point:

“Notwithstanding the ‘default’ in place, the social benefits of playing face-to-face are acknowledged and teams are encouraged to play matches in this manner if possible.”

DL also remarked that our position is also in line with Berks and Bucks county current rules– i.e. that the default is online using RealBridge or BBO but that FTF matches may be held if both teams agree.

The number of boards played.

We have also been made aware that most clubs would prefer to play matches of 24 boards which is and always has been the default for matches played FTF. Given that a few teams in Division 2 and some in Division 3 do prefer fewer boards, last year we amended the rules to allow fewer boards to be played in these divisions (20 and 18 respectively). This was mainly to reflect the issues a few people have with playing too many boards on-line. However we all believe that a 24 board match gives a fairer, less random, result. We will not be mandating this though through a change in the rules, but we very much encourage teams to play 24 board matches if at all possible.

12. Vote on proposal

The proposed change in wording for rule 1.2 was unanimously agreed. Everyone also agreed to encourage teams to play FTF and 24 board matches where at all possible.

13. Entries for next season.

Deadlines for next season entries are 11th August (League) and 17th August (Pivot) and payment for league is also required by 11th August.

DG has already prepared the playing dates spreadsheet for league matches and DC asked if that could be made available as soon as possible to help clubs juggle BBL matches with county Lof8 matches. DG noted that this is

based on 7 teams per division, if there are fewer you'll just get an extra week or two off.

Following the meeting MM sent out the emails to all club contacts with details for entry, including the deadline dates above and attaching the playing dates spreadsheet.

14. BBL website

DL commented that the current website had originally be set up about 7 years ago. Over the last couple of years the committee have received some feedback that it is difficult to navigate around and find key bits of information, especially on a mobile phone. DL asked Ian Lewis to look into this and Ian had made a number of changes to the structure and format of the home page - introducing new link 'buttons' to key information and archiving old news. DL also noted that some of the contact/committee info on the website also needs updating and the new pivot rules need uploading.

Ian Lewis has been helping with our website for a number of years now, and given that these latest changes would have required more time, the committee agreed to thank Ian with a bottle of wine. All concurred.

DL asked if anyone had any comments – there were none- and he acknowledged that in practice few people actually look at the website.

15. Election of Officers and Committee

We have received no other nominations so the 2023-24 committee is proposed as:

Chairman	Dave Lee
Secretary	Michelle Margetts
Treasurer	Joyce Baldock
League Fixtures Secretary	Dave Green
Pivot Fixtures Secretary	Dave Lee
Member	David Pinder
Member	John Sheridan

The committee was unanimously elected 'en-bloc'.

16. AOB

DC thanked the committee for all their hard work though-out the year.
There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Bracknell Bridge League

Income and expenditure accounts season 2022-2023

Income	2022-2023	2021-2022	Expenditure	2022-2023	2021-2022
Handicap	£0.00	£0.00	EBU licence fees 2022 + 2023	£779.92	£384.00
League	£546.00	£592.00	BBO fees	£0.00	£34.34
RealBridge - Ascot v Yateley	£0.00	£2.88	RealBridge fees (friendly Ascot v Yateley)	£0.00	£2.88
RealBridge fees received - league	£278.40	£134.40	RealBridge fees - league	£278.40	£134.40
Pairs evening entry fees (2022)	£110.00	£125.00	Realbridge fees - EOS 2022	£19.20	£0.00
Pairs evening entry fees (2023)	£180.00		Engraving 2022 + 2023	£103.30	£36.00
			Prizes - pairs 2023	£30.00	£0.00
			Pairs evening - director 2022 + 2023	£15.00	£40.00
			Other expenses - pairs 2023	£84.15	
			Station'ry/postage/phone	£2.05	£0.00
			Web site fees 2022 + 2023	£72.00	£36.00
			Web Master	£0.00	£0.00
			Examiner's fee 2022	£6.50	£7.00
	£1,114.40	£854.28		£1,390.52	£674.62
			Excess/(Loss)	(£276.12)	£179.66
Bank Reconciliation					
			Excess/(Loss) - b/f	(£276.12)	
			EBU licence fees not yet paid (EOS)	£15.12	
			Excess/(Loss) - expenditure v income	(£261.00)	
			Opening Balance	£582.52	
			Excess - expenditure v income	(£261.00)	
			Carried forward	£321.52	
Current Assets/Liabilities					
			Bank (current account)	£321.52	
			Cash	£0.00	
			Stock in hand - 500 score cards	£20.00	
			Current Assets	£341.52	

Notes to the accounts - Profit & Loss figures for each competition

		Receipts	Payments		
Pairs evening 2023					
Entry fees		£180.00			
Director			£10.00		
EBU licence fee			£15.12		
Hire of Hall			£80.00		
Refreshments			£4.15		
Prizes			£30.00		
		£180.00	£139.27	Excess/(Loss)	£40.73
Handicap					
		Receipts	Payments		
Entry fees	free entry	£0.00			
EBU licence fee	no EBU fees		£0.00		
BBO fees	free entry, so no BBO fees		£0.00		
Prizes			£0.00		
		£0.00	£0.00	Excess/(Loss)	£0.00
League					
		Receipts	Payments		
Entry Fees		£546.00			
EBU licence fee			£386.40		
BBO fees			£0.00		
		£546.00	£386.40	Excess/(Loss)	£159.60