

BACH

VOLUNTEERS MEETING

Minutes from meeting held 12th Jan 2016 15:00 @ Sue Barnes'

In Attendance:

Wynne Gifford (Honorary President)

Sue Barnes Pam Deverill Steve Deverill Ian Hamilton Reg Hull

Amanda Marnham Hazel Rebbeck

Apologies:

Val Cameron

1. Committee

A discussion took place regarding having a formal committee and constitution. It was agreed that we would continue to run the club in the same way as before, functioning as a "**VOLUNTEER TEAM**" and without a formal constitution

Wynne to remain as Honorary President.

The main activities and responsibilities of the **VOLUNTEER TEAM** are

- ❖ Bookings - Amanda
- ❖ Books & Accounts - Ian & Tony
- ❖ Computer Hands Production - Ian & Anita
- ❖ Directing - Sue
- ❖ Locking up - Steve & Reg
- ❖ Opening & Setting up - Amanda & Irene
- ❖ Host/Partner - Wynne
- ❖ Red Section Leader - Pam
- ❖ Refreshments - Val & Hazel
- ❖ Scoring - Ian
- ❖ Stationery - Wynne
- ❖ Website & Tech Support - Reg

2. Membership

A small number of people outside of the team had expressed the view that the club was running well and there was no need to change anything. No one had expressed an interest in joining the team but Graham Lygoe is going to help Amanda & Irene set up when he can.

2.1. Blue Section

Ian had previously circulated a note that our table numbers were being maintained at a healthy average of c11 tables per week. Reg produced a list of members who had left in the last 2 years. A review of the list showed that main reasons for leaving were health or change of circumstances.

It was felt this was a good time to remind everyone of our ethos ie Be Amicable Courteous and Harmonious especially as we have had quite a few new members in the Reds. Many of whom could join the Blues. We wish to remain a friendly club where people enjoy their bridge. - **Action Sue**

2.2.Red Section

Pam reported that the current Reds were using previously played boards from the Blue section and completing around 15 boards in an evening. The primary reason for the lowish number of boards played was the comparison and discussion around their contracts with the ones that the blue contracts. Ian suggested removing the travellers to increase the number of boards played.

Pam will continue to organise a Red Section on the second Monday of every month.

A number of Red players, could now play in the Blues and Pam will encourage their transition by suggesting they play in the Blues but can still play in the Reds at the monthly session.

Everyone thanked Pam for a brilliant job in maintaining and running a Red section

3. Finances

Ian reported that for the 6 months to the end Dec we had raised a further £2,100 for Myeloma.

Reg suggested we could lower the table money to £4. The conclusion to the discussion was that we should remain at £5 because it would insulate members against increase costs e.g. hall hire and maintain a meaningful charitable donation. In addition, the fee includes refreshments. Also most clubs have an annual membership fee and it was likely that a lot of local clubs would be putting up their fees this year.

It was agreed that the Oscars evening would be free.

Consideration was given to making contributions to other charities but it was concluded that,

- 1) There would be no agreement as to what charities,
- 2) It would be better to make a notable donation to 1 charity and
- 3) Myeloma was the chosen charity in memory of Tony.

4. Refreshments

Hazel fed back that herself and Val are happy to carry on but would ask that members wash and put away their cups and saucers. Sue will mention at the beginning of an evening **Action - Sue**

Pam will let Val and hazel know when there is a Red section so that we have enough milk. **Action - Pam**

Thanks to Val and Hazel for possibly the most important duty

5. Directing.

Sue is happy to carry on directing. Everyone thanked Sue for getting us up to regularly playing the standard 24 boards in 3 hours and especially as this meant she could not fully focus on every hand.

When Sue is absent, John Boorman will direct and Reg should be available if both are away.

The team reflected on how difficult it can be to get everyone to move more or less at the same time. A countdown clock was considered but rejected on practical grounds and also that it would put members under unnecessary time pressure.

After further discussion it was agreed that Sue would announce that if the first card had not been played when the bell rang, then pairs should move on. The traveller should record "Did Not Play" or "DNP". **Action - Sue**

This would not affect a pair's % score for the evening as the scoring program would adjust for it accordingly.

The team whole heartedly thanked Sue for her efforts in what can be a very difficult role.

6. Movements

We now have a comprehensive list of movements for 9.5 to 12 tables that maximises the number of boards we play in an evening. Reg has produced a matrix that resides in the yellow folder.

The team felt the movements were working well but late arrivals and non shows recently have meant last minute juggling. Sue will encourage members to be on time and let us know if they are not coming. **Action - Sue**

We will continue to try and balance NS and EW sit outs to be fair to all.

7. Technology

7.1. Website. The website is well used.

7.1.1. Booking In via the yellow book and the website is working well.

Sundays are a popular booking in day. Amanda has got this down to a fine art and we always know who should be coming. It was agreed that this was an important role and that Amanda does a great job of keeping it running smoothly

7.1.2. There is steady traffic peaking on Tuesday's when members review performance and stats.

7.1.3. There are a couple of new features such as the ability to replay hands using your own bridge software that Reg will highlight to members. **Action - Reg**

7.2. Computer generated hands.

This was discussed at length. The main theme being how to convince members that they are not fixed in any way and all that is happening is that the computer is giving the cards a really good shuffle and then inserting them into boards.

Ian had done a review and noted that there was no bias towards any polarity or type of hand. Reg had supplemented this with an analysis of his and Judy's hands over the past few weeks that showed that on average they got 10 points each during the evening and no matter which polarity they played himself and Judy had got on average 20 points per hand.

Both Ian and Reg pointed out that this was an average and that most hands had a different number of points and shape.

Reg has put a "myth buster" paper on the website.

We would continue to monitor the hands **Action - Ian & Reg**

However the advantage of being able to have the hands on the website together with the optimal contracts and being able to correct instances when cards have been put back incorrectly significantly outweighed any negatives.

7.3. Electronic Scoring

Reg stated there are number of options are available ranging from bridgemates to tablets and phones and cloud software.

It was agreed that this was a "step too far" at this time for the following reasons.

- Significant cost. Reg estimates 2.5k
- Storage of equipment at the hall
- Need to train people up.
- No overall net benefit to member analysis
- Ian is happy to continue being the main scorer.

8. Annual Dates

8.1. Valentines fun competition 8th February

NS/EW finishing 5th would receive a prize. Pam to work out Red criteria on the evening.

8.2. Oscars 11th July.

Same basis as previous years & free evening

8.3. Christmas & New Year

Christmas Party 19th Dec

Closed 26th Dec & 2nd Jan

Re-Open 9th Jan

9. Next Meeting

Our communication with each other and as a team has worked well this year. We will have a meeting when the need arises.

10. Minutes

Reg will prepare and file with previous minutes on website **Action - Reg**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:45

Prepared by Reg (13/01/16)