

DRAFT

Minutes of AIBC Open Meeting held in Ness Bridge Club, Greig Street on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 19.00hrs

1. Present. Susan Brodie, Jean Armstrong, Allan Downie, Duncan & Hilda Cameron, Tim and Ann Wickens, Helen Corrigan, Val Skelton. **Apologies** Ken Davidson.

2. No **matters arising** not elsewhere on the Agenda.

3. The minutes of the 13th May 2016 Open Meeting were approved Ann and Val

4. Charity Bridge Evening held on Tues 2nd May 2017 in Waterside Hotel. There were 14 tables, No beginners this year. AIBC paid Hotel costs of £206, leaving £587 to go to the Charity Lyme Disease Action. Tim has already paid it. Not a local charity. Allan will contact Morven May who spoke at the beginning of the evening, to create photo for the P&J. Very successful evening and thanks given to all our club helpers and especially to the ladies who organised the raffle and TW who acted as Planner and Director. Thanks to Chris for the shortbread. New venue needed for next year since the Waterside are less generous than in the past, therefore less money goes to the charity of choice, without the sponsorship of AIBC. To be discussed at next committee meeting.

5. 19th Inverness Congress Sept 15/16/17 2017 at the Waterside Hotel

Expenses £400 for hire of the venue, Director – Gordon Hay – travel expenses, daily rate and meals. £180 ish. Staying with Val and Chris Skelton. Entry - £6.00 per session or £25.00 for whole weekend, based on 18 tables – £1800 for the weekend. Prizes 1/3 of that £600, expenses £600 so surplus (eg last year) approx. £450 Nothing pressing to spend surplus on at present.

Publicity – entry forms not ready for the Strathpeffer or Elgin Congress because information re sponsors not available. Now on AIBC web site. ?SBU Tim and Allan will coordinate email addresses for local and regional club secretaries and further afield and send copy to them.

Boards – District boards with Bill Richardson Tim/Allan to coordinate with Bill for delivery to Inverness.

Allan (with help) will prepare boards. Bill Richardson c/o the state of the boards on return last year but the state when they were received from him were not good – several boards missing cards etc.

(Elgin have bought their own boards - may be a hire fee involved if go down that route) There are enough pens left from Don Greig's sponsorship in the past, for this year's Congress. Stored at Ness Club. Other sponsors not forthcoming however Allan may be able to get miniature whisky for participants at cost.

New Venue for next year and new dates to be decided – May be @ Newtonmore on Feb 23/24/25 2018.

Really good rates offered from the hotel for dinner B&B, with tea and coffee plus venue hire thrown in.

% of local : visitors in the past have been about 80:20. May get more visitors from the south at Newton more – change of name required if change of location? To be discussed. Nowhere in Inverness were willing to give attractive rates for the weekend.

Susan will speak to Gordon Hay re possible dates for next year, next weekend at Oban Congress.

6. Financial Report TW read out the past years financial statement. Please find attached.

7. Election of Office Bearers The following were volunteered Susan Brodie – Convenor for another year, Tim Wickens – Treasurer, Ken Davidson - Secretary, Donald MacKenzie - Auditor.

8. Local leagues The dividing up of the league wasn't the disaster that Elgin was predicting. There are now 2 divisions with 5 teams each including Cairngorm. Dingwall are running 2 teams. So 4 matches which are more 'even' than in the previous arrangement. Duncan requested that match dates should be arranged by mid Oct and then stick to them. barring unforeseen circumstances.

9. Education The U3A classes continue throughout the summer. 8 week courses in primary 6&7 are very popular in the winter. Some schools have gone on to create after school clubs. Area tournament in Elgin – 24 tables. It is hoped to target secondary schools this year. However more helpers would be required.

8. AOCB. There is a trophy – The Ness Cup held with the Wickens at present. Not known who it's for no names or any engraving. Proposed that it should be presented to the winners of Division 2 in the Highland league. When the divisions split up last year One cup went to Moray league and one to Highland (for Division 1)

9. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 8th August at Ness Club