

Minutes of Council Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club Wednesday 15 November 2006

Present:

Jon Downing (Chairman), Darren Evetts (Secretary), Leslie Reece (Treasurer), Colin Lang (Vice-Chairman), Mike Allen, Carolyn Fisher, Barry Holloway, Alan Pagett, John Pyner, John Robbins, Pip Whitehouse, Nick Woosnam

1. Apologies

Ann Bailey, John Birch, Stephanie Galvin, Dodo Georgevic, Jane Hall, Nanette McWhirter, Myra Scott, Hylda Townsend

2. Minutes of last meeting (140606)

The minutes were amended to show the meeting as being held on the 14 June rather than the 15 June, agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

Handicap final was won by David Franks team comprising Adam Wood, Jane Hall Carolyn Fisher Leslie Reece and Adrian Knight.

4. Treasurer's Report – Leslie Reece

Membership stands at 826 a 2% decline on last year. 22 Clubs have subscribed.

Income to date with membership (50p) increase and increased numbers in Pairs League should result in a moderate profit this year.

5. EBU Shareholders Report – John Pyner

- New chairman Peter Stocken and new vice-chairman Sally Bugden. Richard Fleet has resigned from all his EBU responsibilities. Proposed to increase subs by £2.50 from February 2008. If members pay by direct debit there will only be a 50p increase. There will be further discussion on the proposed subs increase. The reason for this proposal is because the EBU want to centralise membership. Concern was expressed about the financial implications of the EBU collecting payments and holding funds that would traditionally be in our account and earning us interest. There was also concern as to losing the face-to-face opportunity of clubs collecting payments and encouraging members to join the EBU. Maybe the EBU should offer clubs an incentive for encouraging new/existing members to join.
- Problems at Brighton were noted but no other venue in Brighton can offer the facilities at a similar rate.
- Kettering – Tied into the Centre for 2007. Alternative hotel might be a possibility for future events.
- Announcements – the question of whether we should use announcement cards was discussed and decided against.
- Meeting dates for 2007 may result in the need for us to adjust Council meeting dates. The dates are set for Wednesday 21 February, June 6 and Oct 3 (see AOB).

A general discussion about the new Orange Book and announcements/alerting ensued. It was agreed that we would hold two meetings, one to provide information to members (club TDs etc) and the other to receive feedback later in the year.

6. League Secretary's Report – Leslie Reece

Entries are up by one team, an opposite to the trend of previous years. The new handicap structure has been implemented.

7. Tournament Secretary's Report – Pip Whitehouse

The underlying trend of the 2006-2007 season so far has been the downward turn in number entering events.

Midland Circle (100906) – 10 Teams competed with the Warwickshire team of Roger Bryant, Ian Handley, Colin Dean and Mike Summers-Smith winning and Margaret Armstrong, Mike Allen, Roger Flood and Pip Whitehouse runners-up.

Warwickshire Pairs – heats were held at 5 venues. Low entries have resulted in the cancellation of the second round. 28 pairs have qualified for the final.

Warwickshire Introductory Pairs – heats were held at 5 venues. Again low numbers resulted in the second round being cancelled. 24 pairs have qualified for the final. It was suggested that the 5000 local point restrictions might have resulted in part to this decline along with new players not being encouraged to enter the event.

Goodman Cup – 8 teams entered. Only 4 were entered the week before the draw!

Garden Cities (021206) – 4 teams entered so far – another 2 expected from another club.

Golfprint – 1 entry received to date.

Corwen – Discussion as to payment for entry into the Corwen (winning pairs from the Warwickshire Pairs are eligible for entry into the Corwen) was deferred until the February meeting - consideration was to be given to what we pay for entry fees for third and fourth place.

8. Match/Selection Committee Report – John Robbins

Inter-County League - A good start to the season with wins against Gloucestershire (Dawes 15-5, Porter 20-0 & Markham 15-5) and Derbyshire (Dawes 11-9, Porter 8-12 & Markham 20-0). Against Lincolnshire Dawes 7-13, Porter 18-2 & Markham 20-0. Once again the question of the strength of team we field for the Markham was raised. Darren indicated that he had raised this question with the league organiser some time ago and there was no direction or interest shown in agreeing the level with other Counties. Therefore we should field our strongest teams across the board!

Tollemache – Team confirmed as David Jones & Gary Watson, Steve Green & Graham Link, Peter Heatherington & Glyn Preece, George Cuthbertson & Ian Handley, Mike Leese & Steve Wood and Susan Stockdale & Dave Cropper

Invitation Events – We have sent representative teams to Nottingham, Cheltenham, Stafford and Derby – no wins so far!

Warwickshire Logo – The EBU has asked for our logo for inclusion in the magazine. We do not use the official Warwickshire County Logo (Bear and Ragged Staff) – Darren to investigate its use.

9. Secretary's Report – Darren Evetts

Correspondence – Some re Warwickshire Pairs League, which will be discussed by the WPL Working Group.

Calendar Updates – Kenilworth Congress cancelled due to lack of support. WPL to be held at CBC from January 2007 whilst the building work is in progress at WMBC.

Website – 14348 hits since May 2005. New look will be released soon.

Midland Counties Congress – Entries slow considering advertising sent out. Colin Lang agreed to be and elected as the fourth MCC Representative for Warwickshire.

10. Warwickshire Pairs League

Premier – 33 pairs entered compared with 22 last year - 8 pairs will be demoted.

Coventry Division I – 17 pairs entered compared with 18 last year (last year Division I and II were combined) 2 pairs from Coventry will be promoted.

Coventry Division II – 4 pairs entered – a disappointing entry resulting in Division I and II being combined with sub fields! 2 pairs from Coventry will be promoted (not those entered in division II).

Birmingham Division I – 22 pairs entered compared with 24 last year – 2 pairs will be promoted into the Premier.

Birmingham Division II – 20 pairs entered compared with 21 last year – 2 pairs will be promoted into Division I.

Warwickshire Pairs League Prize Money - for the first series Agreed at: Premier £30-£20-£15-£10 Birmingham Division I & II £25-£15-£10, Coventry Division I £25-£15, Coventry Division II £15. It was that prize money would be set based on the series entry.

A disappointing entry to both Divisions I & II despite advertising to all EBU members living in Warwickshire.

For a trial period of one year Max Bavin has agreed to allow us to accept entries from non-members into the second division. We have agreed to provide a report on whether or not this experiment is successful in attracting non-members into the event.

Poor response considering advertising – A meeting of the WPL Working Party (comprising of Darren Evetts, Jon Downing, John Robbins, Steve Green, David Jones, John Pyner and Mike Meakin) will be held 13 December with a view to any changes being implemented for the February-June series and announced at the January events.

It was noted that the rate we pay TDs should be reviews in the Premier and Division I in light of the increased workload. Deferred to the February meeting.

11. Newcomers Development Officer's Report – Myra Scott written report

The BfA event organised by Sutton BC attracted 6.5 tables, which was a disappointing turnout but all enjoyed the event. It was felt that the low turn out was due to classes finishing some few weeks before and perhaps in future years we should hold the event sooner. Coventry also ran a similar event in September, which attracted about the same numbers.

12. Green Point Event – Sunday 13 May 2007 – Sutton Coldfield Bridge Club

Sutton agreed to host this event in the usual way with one exception; desserts would no longer need to be pre-ordered.

13. AoB

Due to EBU shareholders meetings being moved our February meeting date is rescheduled for Wednesday 28 February and not 21 February as published.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Council - Wednesday 28 February 2007 @ 7.00pm – West Midlands Bridge Club. Coffee available upon arrival.

D Evetts
November 2006