

Bracknell Bridge League
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held
Virtually on Zoom Tuesday 1st September 2020

Present

Committee:	Dave Lee	(DL)	Chairman (Aerospace)
	Joyce Baldock	(JB)	Treasurer (Aerospace)
	Dave Green	(DG)	Fixture Secretary (Ascot)
	Ian Adnams	(IA)	Secretary (Finchampstead)
	Alan Brown	(AB)	Yateley
	David Pinder	(DP)	Camberley

Club Representatives: Pitti Gent (Camberley), Chris Hopkins (Woodley), Dave Calcutt (Ascot) and Chris Parnell (Ascot).

Voting Rights: (Ascot)	Dave Calcutt	2 votes
(Bracknell Forest)	by proxy (DL)	2 votes
All others		1 vote

1. **Apologies** were received from: David Pinder (Camberley), Keith Shepherd (Bracknell Forest), Judi Douch (Yateley) and John Sheridan (Crowthorne)
2. **The Chairman** welcomed all to the meeting and explained the voting rights. He commented that this was our 3rd attempt to hold the AGM, which had been postponed due to COVID and other unforeseen difficulties.
3. **Minutes of the 2019 meeting** were accepted and will be signed when possible. (JB/DG)
4. **Matters Arising**
 - Rotation of the EOSP. The committee had tried hard to find another night, starting with Bracknell Forest on a Monday but this fell through due to questions of funding and the time at which the hall would be available on the night. Ascot then stepped forward with an offer of the use of their hall at Chavey Down on a Wednesday and this was set to go ahead until it had to be cancelled due to lockdown. DL thanked the Ascot club on behalf of the committee for their support in this matter. He added that trophies would be engraved and forwarded to the winners in due course
 - The question of the same player playing for different clubs was revisited by committee and it was agreed to allow them to play for different teams provided they were not in the same division, and each individual not to exceed the maximum number of matches per season, which would be 12 for the new season providing the provisional list of entries remained the same.
5. **Overview of proposals and recommendations for 20/21** DL reported that it had been decided to try and finish the 19/20 season where possible, especially where there were promotion/relegation issues to be resolved. He thanked all clubs who had embraced the change to on-line bridge both in the Leagues and Pivot. A survey had been distributed ahead of the 20/21 season and the general consensus showed good support for on-line but wary of F2F until COVID was cleared. Of the two available on-line options (BBO & BCL – with the former free at the time) BBO was favoured as most players currently used it. It was noted that 24 boards in one session maybe seen as a heavy load so the rules had been adjusted to allow matches of either 18 or 24 boards to be played over 1 or 2 ‘sittings’ – this to be agreed between the captains prior to the match. The Committee have drafted Rules and Guidelines and circulated them prior to the meeting – all feedback welcome. The Division structure would remain the same as in the 2019-20 season, provisionally with 6/6/7 teams.
6. **The Secretary** had received nothing to report.
7. **The Treasurer** had circulated the Accounts prior to the meeting. The year showed a small profit of £11.37. The EBU have withdrawn their 50% discount of P2P fees so entry fees had

to be adjusted to accommodate this for the coming season. However, just after this had been agreed and the information sent out to club contacts, BBO announced its intention to charge for 'non-casual' teams matches, so the question of fees had to be revisited. Whilst the league could support some of the BBO charge of \$10/team/season, it has insufficient funds to cover the full amount and consequently clubs are to be asked to contribute about 50% of the amount. A similar charge for the Pivot could be avoided by withdrawal of the Pivot from the EBU management system. JB then asked that the entry costs for 20/21 should be agreed at £17 per League team, this sum to apply only whilst matches are played online – (DL/CH) carried unanimously. She then proposed that the Accounts be approved and adopted – (JB/DL) carried unanimously.

8. **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts** – Adrian Smith – unanimously accepted (JB/DL)
9. **The Fixtures/Results Secretary** – DG reported that everything had been running smoothly up until lockdown, leaving some promotion/relegation issues to be resolved, so requiring a number matches to be either adjudicated or played on-line. Division 3 was not affected by this, but Division 2 required a number of matches to be played, all of which had now been completed, with Aerospace the league winners. Division 1 still has outstanding matches to be played, one of which (Ascot A v Ascot B) will determine the league winners. DG commented that he had not taken part in any deliberations within the committee on how to bring Division 1 to a conclusion as he had a vested interest in the outcome.

The decision to hold the new season on-line has not had a serious impact on the number of entries. Although two teams have exercised their right to withdraw for a season this has been offset by three new teams. The new season will start on October 5th and it was agreed that rather than having a 'home night' the timetable would only show playing weeks.

CH queried how to set up a match on BBO – DL said he would provide assistance/advice on this.

10. **Pivot Cup Secretary** - 13 teams entered this year with no drop outs and all matches except the final were completed before lockdown. The final between Woodley and Ascot (Chris Franklin) was eventually played on-line with Woodley the winners. Entries for 20/21 are down to 8 or 9 teams and, having removed management of the event from the EBU system, a different approach to submitting/displaying results will have to be found. This was likely to be either e-mail directly to DL or via the website using bridgewebs
11. **Discussion and questions on 20/21**

A number of questions were raised during discussion of the new season:

Q. How do the payments to BBO affect the players?

A. It doesn't, the finances are dealt with entirely between BBL and the EBU, who manage the fees on behalf of BBO.

Q. How is half time managed on-line?

A. Entirely by agreement between the captains at the start of the match.

Q. How are disputes managed?

A. The same as with F2F. Both captains will have phone numbers for each other and, if still unable to resolve the dispute, then the details should be sent to committee for a ruling. A record of all hands, bids/alerts should be available via the BBO home page, which should help to ensure the accuracy of some of the details submitted.

Q. Why can't one person sometimes set up two (team) sessions on BBO?

A. If the initial session has not been fully closed down then it is not possible to set up another.

Q. Will the captains need the 'aliases' of all their players?

A. Yes – in order to set up a match the aliases of all 8 players are required

Dave Calcutt congratulated the Committee on the draft rules and their general approach to organising the coming season, adding that he cannot foresee any issues.

12. **Election of Officers** - IA thanked DG for his work in securing Marguerite Ehinger as his replacement after he had tendered his resignation in January. He proposed that the new Committee of:
Dave Lee (Chairman & Pivot League Secretary)
Marguerite Ehinger (Secretary)
Joyce Baldock (Treasurer)
Dave Green (Fixtures & Results Secretary)
David Pinder
Alan Brown
be elected en bloc – carried unanimously.

13. **A.O.B.** – None

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.