

BRACKNELL BRIDGE LEAGUE

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday

18th July 2019 at 75, Brackendale Road

Present: Joyce Baldock (JB) Ian Adnams (IA) Alan Brown (AB) Dave Lee (DL)
David Pinder (DP)

- 1. Apologies** – were received from Dave Green (DG).
- 2. Minutes of the meeting dated 25th April 2018**– after 2 minor typographical corrections these were accepted and signed as correct.
- 3. Matters arising** – AB has new hearing aids and now feels able to continue as a committee member, at least for the time being.
- 4. Chairman's report** – DL has recently visited Ian Lewis (IL) for a very useful demonstration and training session on using the BBL website and feels can now do some of the basic admin jobs if required. IL has confirmed that he is happy to continue with the role of BBL webmaster.
- 5. Secretary's report** – all contacts have now replied enabling the league structure to be formulated.
- 6. Treasurer's report and draft accounts** – Ascot, Woodley & Finchampstead are still to pay the outstanding fees for this season. IA to chase.
- 7. League Fixtures Secretary's report** – DL opened in DG's absence. Camberley had tried very hard to raise a second team but had not been successful, and Finch had lost one of their 2 teams, the total number participating is down to 18. DL registered his disappointment that all our previous efforts to relax rules and encourage teams to play appears to have failed. AB was in favour of accommodating 18 teams with 2 divisions of 9 with each team playing each other just once. The Constitution currently limits each division to a maximum of 8 teams so prohibiting this as an option. DL reminded the meeting that changes to the Constitution can only be made at a general meeting – any motion requiring a proposer and seconder with a 2/3rds majority to carry the motion. Although a Special General Meeting could be called, in practice the next AGM provides the first opportunity to change the Constitution. The remaining options for the structure next season are 7-6-5 or 3 x 6 both of which offer some advantages and some disadvantages. The issues surrounding this were discussed with the majority decision being in favour of 3 x 6. It was agreed that promotion and relegation should be limited to 1 up and 1 down, to continue whilst a 3 x 6 structure is in place. As a result of the restructuring Yateley A and Finchampstead would not get the promotion they were expecting but this was regrettably unavoidable.

8. Pivot secretary's report – 13 teams entered again this year and the first round draw was made. It was agreed to keep the (advisory) completion dates for each round close to those used last year. IA to reiterate the need for names of team members to be submitted (win or lose). DP happy to continue the annual audit.

9. EOSP Checklist – There had been an unfortunate and unfounded rumour prior to this year's event that the event was full, which had put some people off from entering. It was suggested that the BBL website could be used on an on-going basis to inform potential entrants of the number of remaining spaces. Misboarding had occurred which had not been spotted for several rounds causing some scoring problems. It was not clear if the Bridgemates should have picked this up immediately. The meeting agreed to continue with 'in house' directing because of the reduction in costs it offered. Next season's EOSP will be held at Bracknell Forest on a Monday in May. Information supplied by Val Foster indicated that both Mon 25th and Mon 18th would clash with CBC events, so it was agreed to hold the event on Monday 11th May. DL will advise BF of this shortly and it was recognised that JB would need to get in touch with the BF Treasurer (Andy Kirk) in due course to agree on the financial aspects of the event. It is likely that BF will require extra tables for the event and IA has offered a supply from Finch. The new venue will most probably not be available to access before 7.00pm, so it may be necessary to move the schedule slightly.

10. Rule changes – A lot of time has been spent prior to the meeting on discussing and agreeing the proposed changes. DL registered a vote of thanks to DG for his work in this. He noted that there were still one or two minor corrections/modification required to the rules which he would look at prior to the start of the season. The impact of the (new) rule 2.5 on players being sourced from a shared pool to play for different clubs was raised and it was agreed that whilst the proposed 3 x 6 structure for the league would prohibit YHBC/CBC from sharing players, this should not pose a problem.

11. League reinvigoration – It was noted that both Ascot and Camberley would soon be running supervised sessions and Yateley would be re-starting their improvers' evenings. All three clubs would be approached to see if they would be interested in arranging friendly team's matches between participants at these sessions, perhaps as a first step to introducing a Novice Division. Geoff Williams was the organiser at Camberley and DP agreed to contact him on the matter. DL said he contact Dave Calcutt at Ascot and IL at Yateley, noting that he had already discussed the matter briefly with Ian when he visited him to discuss the website. JB suggested looking into 'Cafe Bridge' which has proved to be popular at Farnham Bridge Club.

12. A.O.B. – thanks were passed to Alan & Pamela for hosting the meeting.

13. Date of next meeting – will be Thursday 24th October at 75, Brackendale Road, starting at 2.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 4.10pm.