

## **BRACKNELL BRIDGE LEAGUE**

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday

24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 75, Brackendale Road

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

- 1. Apologies** – none.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019**– after 1 minor typographical correction these were accepted and signed as correct.
- 3. Matters arising** – all covered on the Agenda
- 4. Chairman's report** – apart from wishing to thank AB & Pamela for their continued willingness to host the meetings, DL said he had nothing to report.
- 5. Secretary's report** – There had been a few minor issues earlier in the season (lost contact lists etc) but all easily dealt with. A letter had been received from Yateley & Hawley on player eligibility, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be discussed under Item 10.
- 6. Treasurer's report** – There had been an issue with our last invoice from the EBU, in which the wording had been misleading, although the fees requested were correct. This had now been resolved and the invoice paid. All team entry fees were now received.
- 7. League Fixtures Secretary's report** – There had been a couple of early teething problems which had been easily sorted and all matches are up and running. With the earlier date set for the 2020 EOSP we will not be able to be as flexible with end-dates this season as we have in the past.
- 8. Pivot secretary's report** – 13 teams entered again this year and so far no drop outs. It looks as if all first round matches would be completed to schedule. DP was thanked for his work on the handicaps. Two participants were not NGS registered, so were assigned a handicap based on the average NGS of the rest of their team.
- 9. EOSP** – Although initial agreement had thought to have been made with Bracknell Forest, unresolved issues on finance and the time of access to the hall had caused discussions to stall. Consequently, alternative venues were sought. With Finch only being available on Thursdays and other avenues leading to a dead end, Ascot were the only club able to step forward with the offer of the use of their own club venue. The date for 2020 EOSP will be WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY at St Marys Hall. It is acknowledged that parking could be an issue and entrants will be strongly encouraged to car share where possible. It will also be necessary to cap numbers attending. DG agreed to take up these issues with the Ascot BC Committee. AB registered his disappointment the event was moving at all and felt that, having tried to accommodate Camberley and failed, we should stick with the Finch venue. Others felt it important to try and accommodate the different weekdays wherever possible. It was suggested that Camberley themselves *might* be able to host the event on a Wednesday in future – this to be checked out for 2021.

**10. Update of Rule changes** – DL suggested this Item was discussed in two parts, the first addressing the changes on the current rules he raised in his recent e-mail to the Committee and the second the letter from YHBC

**Part 1.** Change to rule 11.1 - all agreed to adopt DL's proposal. DG is able to look up any EBU numbers if needed. Change to rule 15.2.3 is just a typo correction. Change to rule 17.1 - DL has canvassed opinion on this and the general feeling is that the current situation is not 'exceptional circumstances' within the recent history of the league. It was agreed that the number of teams promoted and relegated each season will be at the discretion of the Committee. IA to notify club captains of the changes and DL to send updates of the rules on the website

**Part 2.** Yateley & Hawley have sent a letter registering their '*disappointment with the recent ruling not to allow players from different clubs to pool together .....as it acts as a barrier to their participation in the league*'. The Committee felt there were a number of inaccuracies to the background contained in the letter, in particular, it was noted that a) this change had first been included for committee discussion in October 2017, thus giving ample time for all consequences to be addressed, and, b) the number of participating teams had not reduced because of it. Whilst he agreed with these views, DP felt that the focus of a response to YHBC should be on the next steps they could take rather than dwelling on any inaccuracies in their letter, a view supported by the consensus of the meeting. It was agreed that no committee action would be taken this season but Yateley & Hawley would be encouraged to raise it at the AGM. DL & IA to produce a draft response to Yateley & Hawley for approval by the Committee before reply.

**11. League reinvigoration** – The idea of starting a novice league or arranging friendlies between potential teams for such a league was not, to date, proving successful. DP had discussed the idea with the organisers of the Camberley transition groups, who felt it was too early for their participants, primarily because they have no clear idea of teams play at this stage. DL had raised the matter again with Ian Lewis, who was supportive of the idea but also felt it too early for the new improvers group at Yateley. Cafe bridge is gaining in popularity but does not lend itself to teams play.

**12. A.O.B.** – DL said that there had been a few issues that had arisen in his first 6 months as Chairman on which the members of the Committee held widely different views, although it had always been possible to reach a consensus. He felt it important that, once made, it should not be necessary to keep re-visiting decisions.

**13. Dates of next meetings** – will be Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 75, Brackendale Road, starting at 2.00pm. The AGM will be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and will be preceded by a committee meeting at 6.30pm – also at 75, Brackendale Road.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.45pm.