

Minutes of BBL AGM 30 June 2022 7.30pm held on Zoom.

Attendees:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Club Representatives</u>
Dave Lee (DL), Aerospace	Dave Calcutt (DC), Ascot
Joyce Baldock (JB), Aerospace	Ian Lewis (IL), Camberley and Yateley
Dave Green (DG), Ascot	John Sheridan (JS), Crowthorne
Michelle Margetts (MM), Ascot	Marc Rivoira (MR), Bradshaws
Alan Brown (AB), Yateley	
David Pinder (DP), Camberley	

Voting rights:

Ascot, DC, 2 votes

Bracknell Forest, by Proxy (DL), 1 vote

Finchampstead, by Proxy (MM), 1 vote

All others, 1 vote.

1. Apologies:

Ian Adnams, Finchampstead.

Chris Hopkins, Woodley

Derek Thornton, Bracknell Forest

2. The Chairman, DL, thanked everyone for coming and explained the Zoom time limit/process to reconnect. He confirmed the voting rights above.

3. The minutes of the 2021 AGM were proposed (AB) and seconded (JB). They will be signed when possible.

4. Matters Arising

- There was a major update of the BBL rules following last year's AGM to accommodate on-line bridge. Supplementary documents were also produced explaining how to set up teams matches on BBO and RB. All of these were in place for the start of the season in September 2021. DL thanked all who had contributed.
- Committee membership. Marguerite Ehinger stepped down as Secretary in December 2021. DL thanked her for her contribution during her time as BBL secretary and also thanked DG for his efforts again in finding a replacement. He thanked MM for taking on the role.
- As of the 2021 AGM, it was uncertain whether Crowthorne would participate in the BBL during the 2021-22 season, but in fact they did. JS stated that on-line bridge was in fact better than they feared, although they do still prefer FTF (and RB is their preferred on-line platform).

5. Secretary's Report (MM)

MM explained that she took over the role in February and the main correspondence since then has been regarding the survey results and related proposed rule changes. These will be discussed later.

6. Treasurer's Report (JB)

- JB explained that the 21-22 year had been better than the previous year. Whilst the entry fee had been increased in line with EBU costs, including those covering BBO fees, the EBU are no longer charging BBO fees for team matches. This would appear to have been made retrospectively, so that fees charged for the 21-22 year would not now be required. JB is seeking clarification on this matter and, if it is found to be correct, clubs will be offered a refund for teams where they have paid the additional BBO cost.
- JB explained that although we have made a small profit this year, costs are beginning to rise – for example engraving costs used to be £36 and this has now increased to £50. More increases are expected. Therefore, we propose to charge the same entry fee of £26 per team as last year. There will continue to be a small charge (paid directly) for matches played on RB, and no charge for those played on BBO.
- The stock of scorecards has been reduced in value from £30.99 to £20 as we now only have about half the number left.
- JB explained that we are looking to move the accounting year end to 30 June, from 31 March. This is to ensure that we can have the income and costs associated with the EOSP in the same year as the league. It does mean that in the 22-23 financial year we will have a 15-month period and two EOSP events.

The accounts were approved (DC) and seconded (IL). A copy of these is attached as an Annex to the minutes.

The recommendation that the fees remain at £26 per team was proposed (JS) and seconded (IL)

7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Adrian Smith has indicated his willingness to do this again. Proposed (JB) and seconded (AB)

8. League Fixtures Secretary's Report (DG)

- The League results for 2021-2022 are as follows:
Ascot B won Division1; Bradshaws were demoted to Division 2.
Camberley B won Division2; Finch were demoted to Division 3.
Woodley won Division3.
- DG confirmed that with the exception of one outstanding fixture between Ascot A and Bradshaws, all matches have been played. Bradshaws have chosen not to play this match and as a result the rules concerning VPs for cancelled matches will apply. This adjustment was Ascot A 15 -Bradshaws 5 and has been made to the league table. However, it was noted that really the points should be 15-0 to better reflect the rules (ie Bradshaws should not be given 5 points for a match that they could not play). **DG will look into how this manual adjustment can be made.** It was noted that any further adjustment would not change the result of this year's league tables.
- There were few adjudications required during the year. Tim Rees was asked to adjudicate on a possible hesitation in a match. Additionally, a further match sought clarity over the use of 'undo'. The team had failed to set up BBO correctly to allow 'undo' in bidding but not in play, which is the current BBL (and EBU) rules for online bridge. All issues resolved amicably.
- DG explained that we will shortly be issuing the instructions and playing weeks for entry to the 22-23 season, and he plans to have all matches on the online system by 1 September. He noted that sometimes there are changes made to this while it is a WIP and that teams should wait until it is completed before filling in their players etc. The playing weeks will be

shown as w/c with the Monday date as in the 21-22 season – the weeks shown for each match can hopefully be met, but if not they can be changed by mutual agreement. IL commented that many matches are played on Thursdays and would it save time to just input a Thursday as a default? DG said no not really. IL also commented that they had an issue last year with a team that was extremely reluctant to play their match on BBO, even though it was the home team's preferred platform. DL re-iterated that the home team has the choice of online platform and the away team should agree. MR felt that they were very accommodating last year but he felt that other teams demonstrated less flexibility.

9. Pivot Secretary's Report (DL)

- There were 9 teams this year.
- Most matches were played on RealBridge
- The final was played between two Ascot teams, Mike Corfield's team and John Fairhurst's team. This was won (for the second year running) by Mike & Jennie Corfield, Tony Solomons and Bruce Franklin.
- DL thanked DP for performing the handicap analysis again this year.
- The rules regarding the Pivot on the website are out of date (pre COVID FTF matches) and need to be updated to reflect the current hybrid environment. **DL will look at updating the rules.**
- We took managing the Pivot in house to save costs and no longer use the EBU Management system. It is all done on the BBL website using Bridgewebs. Hence there is no EBU charge for Pivot teams.
- We intend to run the Pivot teams again this year and entries will be required by early August (date tbc). DL commented that we need 8 teams to make it worthwhile. JS said that they would enter again. IL commented that the clubs could publicise it a bit more and confirmed that he will email Camberley members to encourage them to participate.

10. End-of-Season Pairs

- This year the EOSP was run on RealBridge, and there were 10 tables. It was won again by an Ascot pair – John Fairhurst and Keith Bennett. It has been run online for the last two years and both times the numbers have been disappointing. We discussed the relative merits on online vs FTF for this event. OL is clearly cheaper (no hall costs) but FTF is viewed as much more sociable and historically that has been an important aspect of this event.
- JS & IL both made the point that they think most players would now be happy to play FTF (although this will depend on the COVID situation at the time). JB expressed concern about the cost of running the event FTF; DC says he was confident we would charge the appropriate fee to cover the costs. IL made the point that most players would be happy to pay a bit more to cover the costs of a hall. MR suggested that we market it more as a social event with bridge to encourage more players. Brownlow Hall (Ascot's home venue) was cited as a possible venue.
- Conclusion – we will try and play the EOSP FTF next year, subject to appropriately low COVID levels and financial considerations.

11. Proposals for 2022-23 season

DL introduced the proposals, stating that the first two arose directly out of the survey of teams conducted in February 2022. He thanked all teams for responding, and the results and draft conclusions were distributed to teams for comment in early May. This feedback resulted in a change in the number of default boards to be played in both Division 2 and 3 to be 20. DL emphasised that the 'default' number of boards is the number played when teams cannot reach agreement – teams can agree to play any number between 18-24 boards. Similarly, the 'default' is for matches to be played on-line, but they can be played FTF if both teams agree. DL commented that if we had mandated that all matches returned to FTF we could lose up to 4 teams from the league.

1. Default for the number of boards played in on-line matches

- 1.1 From season 22-23 onwards, the default for the number of boards played in on-line matches in Division 2 and 3 of the BBL is reduced to 20.
- 1.2 The default for Division 1 remains at 24.

2. Default for the arrangement of matches in season 22-23

- 2.1 Adoption of the Committee's recommendation that the 'default' for the forthcoming season is 'on-line'.

The third proposal arose out of correspondence with one team regarding the question of where non-aligned teams can get their players and, if required, additional players from, and whether this could put them at a competitive advantage. Teams aligned to a club can only source players from their club. DL said this has never been a problem, but we accept that it could be. Currently Aerospace is the only non-aligned club but following the closure of Crowthorne bridge club that team will now also be 'non-aligned'. Following discussion in the meeting the proposal was amended to increase the number from 6 to 8 players (proposed AB, seconded JS).

3. Player eligibility for non-aligned teams

- 3.1 Teams competing in the BBL who are non-aligned (i.e. are not part of any club and have no formal membership) are required to nominate up to 8 players for their team at the start of each season.
- 3.2 In exceptional circumstances, subject to the discretion of the Committee and the agreement of the opposing captain, additional players may be used in order to fulfil a fixture.

The final proposal is an administrative one as explained by JB in the Treasurer's report above.

4. Change in the BBL Accounting Year

Approval of Treasurer's proposal that from season 2022-23 onwards, the accounting year-end for the league will be moved from 31st March to 30th June.

12. Votes on the proposals listed above

The proposals were voted on separately and all were unanimously accepted.

13. Entries for the 2022-23 season

- **MM will send out an email to all club contacts** explaining the information required for each team for entry into the league, the deadline for entries (22 July) and cost. (*Following the meeting this was sent on 1 July*)
- **A similar one will follow for the Pivot Cup**, and entries will be required by early - mid August.
- DL asked DC if we were losing an Ascot team this year. DC stated that he hoped to have the same number of teams as previous years, with a bit of reorganisation.

14. Election of officers and committee

- DL explained that AB has decided to step down from the BBL committee. He has been involved in various committee roles since 1997, so had done his time! DL thanked AB for all his contribution over the years, and for his (and his wife, Pam's) hospitality hosting committee meetings/AGMs over the years.
- DL made the point that this is a good opportunity to involve someone from Division 2 or 3 on the committee. JS volunteered to step up and fill the vacancy. We thanked JS and his addition to the committee was unanimously accepted.

The 2022-23 committee was therefore proposed as:

Chairman	Dave Lee
Secretary	Michelle Margetts
Treasurer	Joyce Baldock
League Fixtures Secretary	Dave Green
Pivot Fixtures Secretary	Dave Lee
Member	David Pinder
Member	John Sheridan

The committee was unanimously elected 'en-bloc'.

16. AOB

- AB gave some historical thoughts – noting that when he joined the committee as secretary there were 6 divisions of 8+teams each in the BBL, and that to save postage he used to cycle to deliver correspondence!
- JS said he has a stock of decent ex-Crowthorne bridge tables gathering dust if anyone wants any.
- IL reiterated his thanks to AB for his work at Yateley. IL has agreed to continue to provide website support if required.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Annex – Accounts

Bracknell Bridge League

Income and expenditure accounts season 2021-2022

Income	2021-2022	2020-2021	Expenditure	2021-2022	2020-2021
Handicap	£0.00	£0.00	EBU licence fees	£384.00	£288.00
League	£592.00	£306.00	BBO fees	£34.34	£122.30
RealBridge - Ascot v Yateley	£2.88		RealBridge fees (friendly Ascot v Yateley)	£2.88	
RealBridge fees received - league	£134.40		RealBridge fees - league	£134.40	
Pairs evening entry fees	£125.00	£0.00	Engraving	£36.00	£36.00
			Prizes - pairs + handicap	£0.00	£20.00
			Pairs evening - director	£40.00	£0.00
			Station'ry/postage/phone	£0.00	£0.00
			Web site fees	£36.00	£36.00
			Web Master	£0.00	£10.00
			Examiner's fee	£7.00	£7.99
	£854.28	£306.00		£674.62	£520.29

Excess/(Loss)

£179.66 (£214.29)

Bank Reconciliation

Excess/(Loss) - b/f	£179.66
Prev year EBU licence fee paid	(£288.00)
EBU licence fees not yet paid (league)	£364.80
Prev years BBO fees paid	(£119.87)
Excess/(Loss) - expenditure v income	£136.59

Opening Balance
Excess - expenditure v income
Carried forward

2022
£445.93
£136.59
£582.52

Current Assets/Liabilities

Bank (current account)	£582.52	
Cash	£0.00	
Stock in hand	<u>£20.00</u>	
		£602.52
Current Assets		
Accruals (EBU affiliation fees)		
Current liabilities		<u>£383.04</u>
		£219.48

Stock in hand

Score cards	500	20.00
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Notes to the accounts - Profit & Loss figures for each competition

Pairs evening

		Receipts	Payments		
Entry fees		£125.00			
Director			£40.00		
EBU licence fee			£19.20		
BBO fees			£34.34		
Hire of Hall			£0.00		
Refreshments			£0.00		
Prizes			£0.00		
		£125.00	£93.54	Excess/(Loss)	<u>£31.46</u>

Handicap

		Receipts	Payments		
Entry fees	free entry	£0.00			
EBU licence fee	no EBU fees		£0.00		
BBO fees	free entry, so no BBO fees		£0.00		
Prizes			£0.00		
		£0.00	£0.00	Excess/(Loss)	<u>£0.00</u>

League

		Receipts	Payments		
Entry Fees		£592.00			
EBU licence fee			£364.80		
BBO fees			£0.00		
		£592.00	£364.80	Excess/(Loss)	<u>£227.20</u>

EBU Licence fees

League (7,7,6)	14 teams div 1/2 (14 x 4 x 12 matches)	£268.80
	6 teams div 3 (6 x 4 x 10 matches)	£96.00
	P2P fee = 40p	
Handicap	No charges	£0.00