

OPEN MEETING TUESDAY 30TH JULY

BACKGROUND POSITION

1. Winter/Spring table numbers were up 2018/19 compared with 2017/18.
2. Party and Charity nights have been well attended and enjoyable.
3. Our trainers are willing and able.
4. Our equipment is state of the art.
5. Bridgewebs is excellent.
6. We run 5 competitions (up from 1 pre Nov 2018)
7. We have 3 teams in the EWBA leagues.
8. Our team of 8 reached the National Finals for the first time.
9. Our finances are sound with £3 000+ in cash ; and with bridge being very cheap at £2 per night, there is scope for any price increase that might prove necessary should finances worsen.

In the face of

1. An ageing population.
2. Fewer young people playing cards.
3. Online bridge.
4. Bridge becoming available at U3A.

we have a viable club, that has been modernised.

CAN WE DO BETTER?

SOME IDEAS THAT MEMBERS HAVE PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION

Improve publicity for Club courses and results.

1. Results in the local paper.
2. Flyers in shops.
3. Contact golf and bowls clubs.

Improve our teaching

1. Minibridge to start beginners.
2. Improver teaching to include courses and half hour sessions before 18 50 on a Club night.

Provide a better link between beginners/improvers courses and playing in the normal mon/wed/thurs sessions.

1. Supervised play in a separate section on a Club night.
2. Designate one night each week as a No Fears night.

Attracting former members to play with us again

1. Improve relationships with U3A.
2. Contact people who have not been playing at the Club for a while.
3. Try to correct the false impression some have that our Club is unfriendly and unwelcoming to guests.

Day time sessions

1. Possibly popular, but no available slot at present.
2. Possibly worth investigating a link with the Ladies bridge club

Alcohol to be available

Start competitions that run over time, based on normal Club night results.

THE MEETING ITSELF

Those attending : Graham Eele, John Whiteside, Sue Blake, Ray Mardon, Margaret Ansley, Pat Davey, Jock Dun, Caroline Gawler, Sandra Gregory, Bernie McLaughin, Vic Pritchard, Pam Robinson, Marge Roblins, Dave Smith, Pete Taylor, Richard Stevenson, Marjorie Terrell, Alethea Tonner, Brandon and Pat Waters

Email apologies from Liz Klinkert, Grace Martyn,

Verbal apologies from quite a few (you know who you are)

Written suggestions from Carolyne Ogden, Pete Smith, and Stewart Anderson.

Verbal contributions from Bryan Harden in particular

Clearly this opportunity to contribute to Club development was widely taken ; a very encouraging response.

Discussion was friendly and wide ranging with much covered in a short time - well done Graham who chaired the meeting.

Those present were asked to vote on proposals, and the results are shown below. Each person had 5 votes to cast on what they felt was most important,(so a proposal could get 5 votes if 5 people used 1 vote, or 1 person used 5 votes , or...) Where appropriate, I have added information about what would be needed to put the proposal into practise.

1. Improve publicity for beginners and improvers courses, and for Club activities : 1 vote
(The Club would benefit from a competent person to do this)
2. Improve teaching. 9 votes

These votes were for 1 hour improvers seminars 1-2 times a month before a Club session, or more generally to keep up training after beginners courses.

3. Provide a better link between beginners/improvers courses and playing in normal Club sessions
- Supervised, separate play for beginners/ improvers on a Club night 9 votes
 - Beginners/ improvers play sessions (unspecified when) 13 votes
 - Monday or Wednesday to be NoFear/Pot Luck(?) 11 votes
(Wednesday is very successful as it is)
4. Attracting former members to play with us again
- Contact past members about reasons 1 vote
 - Match with U3A 4 votes
(They vehemently rejected our offer to do this)
 - Improve behaviour on Club nights that members find objectionable 8 votes
 - Gloating over results ; pointing out opposition mistakes ; not being courteous to partner ; not sharing the full information at the end of a board; talking when the room is being addressed ; calling loudly for the Director
 - (Maybe we are not as friendly and well behaved as I thought, some of us anyway)
 - Stronger players to be more willing to play with weaker ones 3 votes
5. Daytime Sessions 8 votes
(We have been told that no slot is available, but possibly this might change)
6. Additional Formats for Club nights
(In addition to No Fear nights)

Teams nights - mixed ability (needs pre planning of teams)	12 votes
Occasional nights with random partners	13 votes
Later start 1 day a week	? votes
Break halfway through	1 vote
Bridge Library	2 votes

All complaints to Ray Mardon