MARKET HARBOROUGH
BRIDGE CLUB

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MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 27th OCTOBER AT 3.00pm
LUBENHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present: David North, Di Ford, Jo Hall, Philip House, Judith Parkinson

Apologies: Angela Burdett, Peter Oppenheimer

1. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Trustees
   - Val Raddon had resigned, also Ian Lauder who had been co-opted to join as a Trustee and Fund Raiser during the Fountain Court discussions. Many thanks to them for all their hard work.
   - Neil Spence had expressed his interest in becoming a Trustee. David to invite him to become a co-opted Trustee until the beginning of next year and to make enquiries of other members.
   - As several of the trustees will have served their tenure of 3 years at the end of March, a discussion will be held at the next trustee meeting to discuss the next tenure.
   - Philip proposed we consider the option of allowing us to appoint an external trustee. Trustees approved we explore this option, although it is not possible with our current constitution.
     David to find out if/how we would need to change the constitution to allow this.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

   Fountain Court – closing statement from the Chair.
   I need to formally close the Fountain Court project. This is not the end of us searching for dedicated premises for the club; that is still very much an ongoing aim for the club. The project, although time consuming and ultimately quite divisive, was not a complete loss. We learned a great deal from our efforts, with a much better understanding of exactly what we need from such premises.

   I would like to thank all trustees and all members for their thoughts and input and look forward to future ventures.

4. Training & Development 2027
   No advertising would be required for lessons for next year as several people have already made enquiries throughout the year. These people would be contacted early in November.

   As it was intended to hold supervised play for the current students and Graham was to continue with improvers, an additional venue would be required. Jo had approached several other venues for availability. The only one so far was the Congregational Church on Wednesday evenings. It was agreed that funds could be made available for the purchase of projection equipment if required. David to discuss with Graham.

5. Finances
   The club finances continue to grow. It was agreed that £15,000 would be put into a 6-month investment bond. Gift Aid would be claimed on membership fees and any donations on those qualifying.

   Additional bank account details to be added to our MHBC CIO – (DN action).

6. Children in Need SIMS to be played on 9th and 12th November. All table money plus any donations from members will be donated.

7. Townhouse Project
   Since Joules had vacated the premises on the High Street, Market Harborough and the Bowdens Charity have submitted a planning application to deliver a community space in the town centre at this location. David is in the process of completing the questionnaire and expressing our wish to use some of the facilities.

   Di informed the trustees that the upstairs room next door to the one we already use in the NHH was being redecorated, so that could be another possible alternative/additional venue.

AOB

- Philip updated the trustees on the Friday afternoon bridge sessions. Any initial teething problems have now been resolved. From January 2027 table money will be increased from £4 to £5. David regularly assists remotely with the scoring.
- Remote scoring to be illustrated to other members involved with scoring in the future.
- David reported progress in expanding our dealing processes with training up new volunteers. Trustees approved purchase of additional board holders and cards to support this.
- Bridge Etiquette. David to organize a new members handbook detailing etiquette and procedures.
- Indemnity Insurance to be taken out for Trustees – (DF action).

Meeting closed at 4.35pm.

Date of next meeting 8th December 2026