

Minutes of the North Devon Section (NDS) Committee Meeting on Tuesday June 4, 2024 at 1000 on Zoom

Officers & Members Present

Neil Marsden (NM), chair & Barnstaple: Jacqui Munns (JM), secretary & Braunton: Stephen Rafferty (SR), treasurer: Richard Watkins (RW), Taw Vale. Apologies John Wintle (JW), Braunton.

1. Minutes of the meeting dated April 24, 2024 were agreed and accepted as accurate with no matters arising.

2. Treasurer's Report

SR presented the accounts for the year to April 30, 2024, showing a closing balance of approximately £1,000, see below. JM reported that the North Devon Congress (NDC) current account has approximately £500 and the savings account has approximately £7,500. There is still one outstanding payment for the Friday online sessions.

Actions JM to send SR the NDC accounts and to chase up the final online payment.

3. Clubs Update

(i) Barnstaple – the club is having an EGM this week prior to a free evening session. Following this, it is expected that the Thursday evening sessions will cease. Whether to formally close the club, or to 'rest' it for the time being was discussed. It is possible that the Barnstaple Club EBU number could be used in the future for teaching/supported play sessions. What could be done with any surplus from the club was also discussed.

(ii) Braunton – the club has a new chair, Eamon Rogers, and is continuing to do OK with between seven & eight tables a week.

(iii) Taw Vale is also doing OK with five or six tables a week. Their AGM will take place on Monday July 29, 2024.

RW mentioned that both the Taw Vale and Barnstaple computers are old and need replacing. RW suggested replacing both with one new laptop that could be used for all North Devon events including the club sessions, charity events and the teaching. It was agreed that it would be reasonable to go ahead with this now and to use ND funds.

Actions RW to source and buy a new laptop (budget of c. £500 inc. data transfer) and dispose of the current two.

4. Devon Bridge Association and Sections Update

The East Section has recently voted to fold, and this leaves only the North Section as a functioning section of the DBA. The future of the North Section was briefly discussed in the light of this and the fact that there are likely to be only two clubs in the north in the future. It was agreed that there is a need for an organisation in the north to run the charity events, seminars, and the teaching. It was also agreed that this may be a good time to streamline the running of all of Bridge in the North. However, the exact nature and terms of reference of the organisation going forward will need further discussion.

Action The idea of change to be introduced to the membership at the North Section AGM and at the Taw Vale AGM in July.

5. North Devon Section AGM, Wednesday July 3, 2024 at 6.30pm at Braunton Bridge Club

JW will step down as a committee member at the AGM. All other officers and members of the committee have agreed to continue in their role for the next year.

Action JM to send an agenda to NM for approval and will then post the agenda, draft accounts, and the minutes from last year's AGM on the website.

6. Future Filleigh Charity Events

The Swiss Teams event for the North Devon Charity Cup will take place on Sunday, November 17, 2024. It was agreed to keep the entry fee at £12.50. Play will begin earlier at 1230, with tea & coffee available from 1200.

The possibility of running a second concurrent session at the spring Filleigh using the back room was discussed. This could be a way of introducing less experienced players to events like these and it was agreed that this was a good idea for the future.

Actions JM to put information and an entry form for the November Filleigh event.

7. Promoting Bridge in North Devon

JM and others set up a stall at the Great Hobby Weekend at Rosemoor on the May Bank Holiday weekend and played MiniBridge with some of those attending. Eighteen names and contact details of people interested in learning Bridge were collected, and two have signed up for lessons, one in Exeter and one in Barnstaple. Other events are planned, at the Barnstaple Library on Saturday July 13, from 10am to 1pm, at the Braunton U3A monthly meeting on August 6, at 10am, and pending confirmation, at a meeting of the Braunton Cancer Research (CR) fundraising group.

Actions RW to contact the CR fundraising group in South Molton re arranging a similar event during the EBU Festival week.

8. Bridge Teaching in North Devon

A course of ten beginners lessons has been organised for the side room in Roundswell starting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024. One of JM, NM & RW will run each session with the others and some helpers assisting. A plan of lessons based on the teaching in the EBED Red Book 1 will be needed but progress will depend on the attendees. We will need to further advertise the classes nearer the time and Facebook, local news and local magazines are options to be explored.

9. The EBU Festival of Bridge

Braunton will take part in the EBU's pre-Festival Sim pairs on September 4, and will run a Bring-a-Buddy to Bridge session on the Wednesday during the Festival week. RW will organise an event in South Molton for the Thursday during the day (as mentioned above).

10. North Devon Congress Prices for 2025 This item to be carried forward due to lack of time.

11. AOB None

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next North Section meeting will be on Monday, July 22, 2024 at 2pm, on Zoom.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 1110.

Jacqui Munns, North Devon Section Secretary

See below for the draft accounts

North Devon Section Accounts for the year to 30th April 2024

[illegible]