Future of Jesse Terrace

Background

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic there were two weekly evening sessions held at Jesse Terrace, Tuesday and Thursday. Numbers attending these sessions had been falling over the years. A significant factor contributing to this was the facilities at Jesse Terrace (35JT); in particular no on-site parking, accessibility of the building, as well as the playing facilities split between rooms. For many years the club committee has tried to identify new premises, including a consultation in 2019 on a proposed move to Caversham Heath Golf Club which was not supported by a members' vote.

Since the return to F2F bridge numbers have fallen further at the single weekly evening session. Since Thursday F2F restarted in June 2022; around 40% of sessions have been cancelled due to low numbers registering. The maximum number of tables at sessions held is 5.

The committee have taken a range of actions to try and meet the needs of members and increase numbers attending sessions at 35JT.

· March 2022: Monday afternoon session introduced but only one went ahead

· December 2022: Monthly Sunday afternoon Jack High session. Held December to March but with fewer than 4 tables each time. Feedback has been positive. April and May cancelled due to low registration.

· April 2023: Tuesday afternoon session at Calcot Park Golf Club. 5.5 tables at first session on 18 April and between 4 and 5 tables since then.

· Events have been promoted through other clubs, are open to non-members and table money has been kept at £3 for all attendees.

· Hosts available at Sunday and Tuesday sessions to enable those without a partner to attend.

· There have been discussions with Loddon Vale BC to look at possible options for joint events as they have also suffered from low attendance.

Medium term plan being considered by committee

Given this situation the committee feels we cannot justify the time and money needed to maintain Jesse Terrace for such low numbers.

Rather than take action to fold the club immediately the committee has been considering the option of selling 35JT, finding some higher quality rented premises and attempting to rebuild the club.

We see three possible ways forward for the club, two of which could not have been foreseen by the framers of the constitution, as the technology for online bridge was not available when it was written.

1) Winding up - we decide to discontinue all F2F and online sessions. 35JT is sold and funds are distributed as specified in rule 17, subject to agreed eligibility criterion.

2) 35JT is sold, and efforts to revive F2F sessions in other locations are successful. The club continues more or less as it currently does, with the possible addition of online sessions. Surplus funds are distributed as specified in rule 18, taking into account any sum to be held back if subsidies are necessary for these sessions. If this happens, a time limit must be set for the decision on the distribution.

3) 35JT is sold, efforts to revive F2F sessions in other locations are unsuccessful, but the club continues online. If this happens, all (or almost all) surplus funds should be distributed as specified in rule 18, since online bridge is self funding by its nature, provided no paid director is used (which is usually the case with RealBridge).