

Draft minutes, subject to ratification at the next meeting

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SCUNTHORPE BRIDGE CLUB HELD on Tuesday, 24/6/25 at 7pm.

- 1) Members present: Val Threadgould, Lawrie Chapman, Wanda Kotowska, Mike Llewellyn, Catherine Caldow, Penny Couling, Jenny Selby and Rod Williams.
- 2) Apologies: Louise Lewis.
- 3) The minutes of the last meeting (22/4/25) were accepted as a true record, proposed by Rod Williams and seconded by Jenny Selby. Matters arising could be conveniently covered in later agenda items.
- 4) President's report.

The match in October between Scunthorpe/Scarborough was oversubscribed and Catherine Caldow would select A,B,C pairs being guided by apparent merit so as to give Scunthorpe the best chance of winning.

Jenny Selby and Penny Couling were well on with completing a submission to the Lottery Authorities for a grant to cover the cost of renovating the kitchen. It remained necessary to include the cost of the necessary electrical work.

No progress had been made towards rationalizing the position re the trustees, following the receipt some time ago of a letter of resignation from Glyn Elwick. The other trustees remain as Mike Llewellyn, Mike Galey and Stuart Knox. It was agreed that there was no need to interfere in this matter.

5) Secretary's report.

Progress was being made to replace worn out boards and new cards were being purchased.

There was an ongoing problem with the premises being left insecure and the cleaner would be asked to record instances so that tactful advice could be given when necessary. It was felt that there was no need to re-instate the check list which had originally been in existence to remind directors of the onerous responsibilities incurred when leaving the premises. It was recognized that all members should be prepared to assist at the end of a session.

6) Treasurer's report.

We have 134 members including two who have joined in the last two months. We are solvent with about £25,000 on deposit.

7) Subscriptions.

It was agreed that we would not ask for any increase in membership fee or table money. However, there was some feeling that the table money could be increased to £4 or less painfully to £3.50. It was suggested that ideally there should be an annual increase at least in line with inflation, but this would result in the collection of the money being even more tedious. No resolution was suggested. There was some feeling that the premises needed improvement so as to keep in line with normal standards, but there was also the view

that we did not want to deter any members from playing as much as they wanted to.

8) Director's courses.

Rod Williams reported that although he had made contact with the EBU regarding such courses, they were very slow in progressing the matter. Catherine Caldow offered to try to help in this regard.

9) Building.

An ant infestation in the kitchen had called for professional treatment, which seems to have succeeded. Lawrie Chapman brought to the committee's attention the unsatisfactory state of the gentlemen's toilet and it was agreed that he should obtain quotations for upgrading all the toilets. Lawrie also urged the committee to err on the cautious side with regard to fire safety. It was agreed that we would continue to pay for the services of the professional, Paul Holland. The cost of the fire and emergency lighting service will be £130 + VAT every 6 months and the annual extinguisher service will be £30 + VAT i.e. slightly cheaper than suggested at the meeting.

10) House/bar.

A stand-in cleaner would be required for one week in July. Penny Couling and Jenny Selby felt that a full scale fund raising event needed too much input and so it was agreed that charitable fund raising should be limited to a raffle perhaps held on a Tuesday afternoon.

11) County matters.

Mike Llewellyn reminded us that the County AGM was on 6/7/2025 and that apart from himself as treasurer, none of the other officers was seeking re-election.

12) Tournaments and directing.

It was hoped that the arrangement with Roy Brixton regarding the calendar would be satisfactory and gratitude was expressed for his work in this regard.

There had been an unpleasant and unacceptable incident at the most recent Friday pm session, but as nothing had been brought to the committee officially, we felt we could not discuss the matter.

13) Teaching.

Louise Lewis wanted the lessons to be put back this year to the beginning of October. We note that Louise would be supported by Rod Williams and Brian Camm in her onerous work with both beginners and improvers.

14) AOB

a) It was agreed that Wanda Kotowska should obtain a new poster to advertise the classes.

b) It was agreed that the club member, John Mainwaring, should enroll his chess players as members and that in addition to paying the fee for membership, they should be allowed to form a chess branch within the club – details including payment to be negotiated between John and the officers.

c) The club member, Pat Donaldson, had brought to our attention that she found the seating arrangements too cramped during the Tuesday pm sessions. This is a

matter for the director. The issue of whether or not these sessions should be described as “relaxed bridge” was again raised.

Date of next meeting – 26/8/25 and the AGM to be on 2/9/25.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.