

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday December 7th at 41 Valley Drive

Present: Tony Thorpe (Chairman), Hugh Creamer, John Gillespie, Alan Hughes, Pam Pelling

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Hugh Basden-Smith and Carol Gillespie. In Carol's absence John Gillespie acted as Secretary.
2. **Minutes of the meeting** held on October 12th, 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman without change.
3. **Matters Arising**
Minute 7 (iii) relating to 'Colin's Corner'. No response received from Colin Graham-Hyde.
4. **Correspondence**
No correspondence received.
5. **Welfare of Members**
Pam to check on Barbara Harper's progress after surgery.
Pat Tyack has recently undergone surgery. Marie Bawden to be alerted re. card.
6. **Treasurer's Report**
Hugh Basden-Smith was not present to speak to his report. The report projected a year end balance of c. £3500. The table money increase of £1.50 (effective 1.9.17) has stabilised the Club's finances as intended.
7. **Chairs in the Over 60s Club**
The Over 60s Club has located flatpack versions of the current orange armchairs at a cost of £52 each. Some committee members had discussed this option and were unhappy with a 'flatpack' solution. Tony has suggested to the Over 60s Club that chairs, such as those currently in use at Alfriston and East Dean, might be less expensive and more suitable. To date there has been no response from Bob Derbyshire of the Over 60s. Tony has also suggested to Bob a visit to East Dean Village Hall with representatives of the Over 60s, Southdown BC and Seaford BC.
8. **BridgeMate**
John Gillespie presented a report confirming that BridgeMate will be hosting our Club session on 16.1.18. It was agreed to advise members of this date and to not charge table money.
The report addressed the issues of battery charge and data usage and concluded that they should not be of concern but that we could raise the issue with BridgeMate when they visited.
Finally the report drew the committee's attention to an alternative to BridgeMate called BridgePal. BridgePal was now to be used by Bridge Overseas supporting their bridge holidays from 2018 onwards.
John had made some enquiries about BridgePal. It is used by 20 clubs in the UK and the software was written in 2011 by John and Mimi Goacher of Chislehurst BC. They do not charge for the software or for support provided. The system uses android smartphones or tablets (one per table). These devices are networked via a wi fi router to a laptop operating Windows PC. No mobile or internet connection is required to operate the system. The scoring software used is a package called BridgeScore and not ScoreBridge as used by BridgeMate. Wi fi availability is required to upload the results from BridgePal to BridgeScore.

John spoke with Claire Cooney of Chelmsford BC who 'cannot speak highly enough' of BridgePal. CBC installed the system for a total outlay of under £500 although they were given a secondhand laptop and router. The main expenditure was on smartphones (sourced for £28 each) and a multiple phone charger. According to Claire the main advantage was the cost and the main disadvantage (as compared to Bridgemate) was that the software was not bespoke and all the setting up etc fell to the Club.

After some discussion the committee concluded that BridgePal was worth pursuing but that there was some concern about support arrangements and whether there might be any future patent issues involving BridgeMate. It was agreed to continue considering BridgeMate but for John to also contact the Goachers at Chislehurst and to discuss our BridgePal concerns.

Finally, John agreed to approach BridgeMate to obtain some demonstration handsets in advance of their presentation.

9. Committee Members Standing for Re-election in 2018

Tony – undecided; Hugh B-S – not standing; Carol – will stand; John G – will stand; Pam P – will stand; Alan – will stand; Hugh C – won't stand if others put their names forward.

10. Christmas Party

Pam has purchased table cloths, napkins, paper plates, plastic cups and also some cheese straws.

Hugh purchasing wine and providing glasses

John/Carol purchasing soft drinks and nibbles plus providing quiz and quiz prize

John/Carol/Tony/Helen to get to the hall by 5.00 to set up.

Play will be divided into two separate competitions with N/S and E/W cash prizes in each section.

Prizes to be £4 winner and £2 runner-up. A total cash outlay of £48.

If there are 14 full tables (unlikely) then, using scorecards, results will be available before players go home. Otherwise travellers will have to be taken away and ScoreBridge used to produce two sets of results.

Hugh C to be in overall control of the evening (i.e. keeping things moving according to the eating and playing schedule).

There will be a 'winning 2 Clubs' spot prize (**Alan/Hugh**) and a helium balloon (**Pam**) to denote the current 'leader' in the competition.

11. Diary Dates

These were agreed as per the agenda.

12. Any Other Business

Karen Dyson's membership application was agreed (prop. Pam; sec. Alan).

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

January 25th, 2017 (10.00) at 1 Richington Way

The Chairman thanked Pam for her hospitality.