

SEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Friday August 16th at 4 Crown Hill

Present: Martin Auger, Bridget Constantinos, Leslie Fowle (Chair) John Gillespie, Ruth Skinner and Pam Vickery

1. Apologies for Absence

None – but it came to light after the meeting that Pam Pelling was suddenly indisposed.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2019 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

(i) Seaford Golf Club Room Hire Costs

Carried forward to next meeting in Pam Pelling's absence

(ii) Timing of Friday evening playing sessions

The Chairman had announced to those members attending on a Friday evening that the Club was planning an experiment whereby during the month of June the Friday session would start at 7.00 – 30 minutes later than normal. Following some unfavourable feedback it was decided not to pursue the experiment and sessions continue to commence at 6.30.

(iii) Introduction of Bridgmate at Southdown Bridge Club

Following on from the decision at the May committee meeting to share the Bridgmate equipment with Southdown BC in return for a financial settlement of £687.66 the Chairman drew up an agreement covering the arrangement. This agreement was signed by the Chairs of both Clubs on 12 June 2019.

It was agreed to set up separate membership databases for both Clubs with members common to both Clubs retaining their 'Seaford' playing number for use at Southdown. Techies for both Clubs would ensure that the appropriate database was downloaded and available prior to the commencement of playing sessions.

John organised a training session for Southdown techies in June.

Southdown has now been successfully using Bridgmate at Wednesday playing sessions for two months.

4. Correspondence

Another offer, open until August 31st, was received from Mr Bridge for the purchase of playing cards at 50p per pack.

It was agreed to purchase 144 packs at a cost of £72.

5. Treasurer's Report

Reported that the current account balance was £4134.27. This figure was enhanced significantly by the payment from Southdown BC for Bridgmate. Quarterly rentals for Waves and Sixty Plus had been already paid.

Additionally the Treasurer reported that playing attendance when compared with the first seven months of 2018 had declined as follows:

Tuesday – 84 (adjusted to reflect one fewer session)

Friday – 44

6. Dealing Machines

In Pam's absence Leslie provided the following information:

Christine Creamer and Martin Almond (rep. Southdown) together Leslie and Pam (rep, Seaford) had recently met with Martin Butcher of Eastbourne BC at their premises.

Eastbourne use a Dealing Machine (DM) once per week to set up in advance all the boards they will need for that week. Although having two DMs – Dealer 4 and Duplimate they currently are only using the former.

Using a Dealer 4 the dealing process cannot be run off-site without the Bridgemate laptop. There is, however, an enhanced version, the Dealer 4 +, which incorporates a small screen. Buying this version would make it possible to prepare boards at home with the information being stored on a USB Flash-drive which could then transfer the information to the Bridgemate laptop. Prices are:

Dealer 4 £3590

Dealer 4 + £3780

Dealer 4 will allow the Club to have a Dealer 4 machine on approval.

Southdown BC is very positive about a DM and keen to progress with the purchase in conjunction with Seaford BC. The committee agreed that should we proceed to purchase a DM we should purchase the Dealer 4 +. It had the advantage of an integrated lap top and could use any type of playing card. It did not require bar coded cards. It was recognised that purchasing a DM would require the purchase at least one set of new boards per venue together with a spare set of boards.

7. Clarification of Prize Monies

It was agreed that in future the following prize monies would be awarded:

Mitchell movement: $2 \times 2 \times £1.50 = £6.00$ total

Howell movement: $2 \times £2.00$ plus $2 \times £1.00 = £6.00$ total

Competitions: $2 \times 2 \times £5.00$ plus $2 \times 2 \times £2.00 = £28.00$ total

8. Any Other Business

(i) Membership

Since the last meeting membership has been approved for two new members – Andy Blann and Jean Judson thus increasing membership to 91. However in the same period there have been two member deaths – Christina Evans and Tony Banham. Membership therefore remains at 89 (7 vacancies).

(ii) Proposal to merge Seaford and Southdown Bridge Clubs.

Leslie advised that he had been in discussions with Christine Creamer (Southdown BC Chair) about the possibility of a merger of Seaford and Southdown BCs. Since the recent move to share Bridgemate and the fact that the memberships of the Clubs was becoming closer merger now seemed the next logical step. He had prepared a paper setting out the financial implications of a merger which identified several areas of savings, e.g insurance, Bridgewebs, parties, EBU scorer etc. In addition certain administrative tasks would be simplified such as introducing a single player database on Bridgemate.

As of the end of September, Southdown's Treasurer has indicated that their Club would have funds of £1100 app.

The committee expressed unanimous support for the merger. Southdown BC's committee will discuss the proposition next week. It is understood that similar support for the idea exists within their committee. If Southdown BC approve the proposition Leslie will call an SGM of Seaford BC for October 1st. It is understood that Southdown would call a similar meeting of their membership for the following day. The aim would be to draw up a new constitution and complete the merger by the end of 2019. An AGM of the new Club would be held in January 2020.

Several issues require resolution such as: the make up of a new committee; a new constitution, the format of 2019 Christmas Party; the annual membership subscription to the new Club; table money; the procurement of a Dealing Machine, bank accounts etc etc

It was agreed that:

- the SGM would consider both the merger of the Clubs and the decision to approve the purchase of a Dealing Machine
- Leslie would prepare a paper for circulation in advance setting out the benefits of a merger
- Pam would prepare a paper for circulation in advance setting out the benefits for procuring a Dealing Machine
- Voting by proxy and by email on both motions would be permitted for those unable to attend the SGM

(iii) 2019 Christmas Party

It was agreed to defer discussion of this subject until after the SGM. The view however was expressed that a move to a 'simpler' and less costly event would be welcomed. The date is currently set as Friday December 20th.

9. Date And Venue of the Next Meeting

To be arranged after the holding of the Special General Meeting on October 1st

