

SEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the first Committee Meeting of 2024 held on Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 41 Valley Drive,
Seaford

Present: Pam Pelling (Chair), Leslie Fowle, John Gillespie, Jacquie Webber, Pau Gard, Chris Robbins and Jean Judson

The Chair welcomed Jacquie, Paul and Chris to their first committee meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Noted:

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 23rd November 2023 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

- 2023 Christmas Party

Noted:

Once again it had proved to have been a very successful and enjoyable event

Agreed:

In view of the amount of food left over to reduce the order in future.

- 2023 Annual General Meeting

Noted:

The meeting had passed off uneventfully in, probably, record time.

- Soup and a Roll Event

Noted:

It had proved to be very successful

Agreed:

To repeat next winter provided there were members willing to run the event.

4. Correspondence

Noted:

No correspondence had been received.

5. Treasurer's Report

Received:

A report from the Treasurer in which he advised that the balance at the bank was £6052.57

6. Membership Report

Received:

Reports from the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer

Noted:

(i) Club membership now stands at 84.

(ii) This figure included Bill Gardner, Mairin Colleary, Maggie New and Julia Llewellyn who had yet to pay their 2024 subscription.

The meeting discussed ways of boosting membership.

Agreed:

(i) To reproduce in Seaford Scene a piece about playing bridge from the EBU Newsletter. EBU agreement would first be required.

(ii) To ask Sheila Ogden about any U3A players who might wish to become prospective club members.

(iii) Jacqui to likewise ask her Peacehaven group about coming to Seaford.

(iv) If (ii) and (iii) were to generate possible members we might at first include them non-competitively within our bridge sessions.

7. Welfare Report

Reported:

Barbara Harper was very poorly but the Club had been advised that it was not appropriate to send a card.

Agreed:

Jacqui Webber would take on the role of sending cards to members who were hospitalised and to the families of deceased members.

8. St Thomas More Hall Fees and Booking Arrangements

Reported:

(i) The hire fee will soon increase from £10 to £15 per hour.

(ii) It had been noted by the Church that the bridge club had been using the premises for periods in excess of the agreed three and a half hours hire time.

(iii) A new lock had been fitted to the premises to ensure that the hall was secure while at the same time meeting fire regulations. The Club had been provided with one key only.

(iv) One copy of the key had been made.

Agreed:

(i) to seek to extend the Hall hire period from 3.5 to 4 hours.

(ii) that Directors would no longer be provided with a hall key

(iii) Leslie would hold one hall key with John Gillespie holding the other. One or other would have to open the hall for each bridge session or pass a key on to another.

(iv) John to ask if the club could have a key to the partition.

9. Player Sent Home/Recalled Incident - January 3rd 2024

Noted:

(i) An incident occurred at the Wednesday January 3rd bridge session where a partnerless member was sent home by the Director. Subsequently a member (Christine Creamer) recalled that person when their missing

partner arrived late. Much confusion ensued with the movement having to be re-entered. The session started late.

(ii) The Chair sent an email to all members reminding them that the Director was in charge of the session and should make all decisions about who was, or was not, eligible to take part. This email was re-printed in the Club Newsletter.

Received:

An email from Christine Creamer suggesting that the Chair's account of the events of that evening was a misrepresentation of what had actually happened and asking if the Club could include her version in the next Newsletter.

Agreed:

(i) to reply to Christine advising that it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that this matter should not be re-visited.

(ii) to look at the Constitution and the etiquette guidelines and, in a series of Newsletter features, remind the membership of their responsibilities.

10. Selection of Movements Appropriate to the Number of Attendees

Reported:

Some members have complained informally about the number of long sit outs that have been occurring recently. They have suggested that Directors should be more prepared to employ devices such as 'share and relay' movements to avoid this.

Agreed:

To, via the Newsletter, seek the suggestions of the membership on movement selection especially with a view to avoiding '4 board' sit-outs.

11. Any Other Business

(1) Sit Outs.

Agreed

To discontinue the current Monday E/W and Wednesday N/W sit-out arrangement and replace with a 'draw' immediately before the start of all sessions to determine the sit-out for that session.

(2) Noise between rounds and at the end of the Session.

Agreed:

(i) to remind members to keep the noise down and to switch off mobile phones.

(ii) to close the hatch to the kitchen after play has started.

(3) A third weekly F2F session.

Agreed:

To enquire about hall availability on other days of the week.

(4) Condition of Tables and Chairs

Agreed:

To mention the poor way the bridge club tables and chairs are maintained when discussing increased hire fees and times with the church treasurer.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Agreed:

Thursday May 23rd (10.00) at the Corner House, Firle Road.

