

SEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Friday May 10th at 4 Crown Hill

Present: Martin Auger, Leslie Fowle (Chair) John Gillespie, Pam Pelling and Pam Vickery

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Bridget Constantinos and Ruth Skinner

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2019 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

(i) Director Training

David Manthorpe and John Nott had expressed an interest in undertaking training. Eastbourne BC and EBU Education were contacted as possible providers. EBC do not currently have plans for training courses. EBU presented a two day course (over two Saturdays) in May at Patcham BC. David was unable to make either date. John after at first expressing interest later declined to take part. Subsequently Roger Chapman might be persuaded to take on the director role once he has familiarised himself with the five main reasons a Director might be called to a table.

It was agreed, for the time being, to take no further action.

(ii) Mr Bridge Playing Cards

These had now been ordered and delivered at a cost of 50p per pack. There were no issues with the quality. Seaford BC has taken 72 packs; Alfriston 36 packs and Denton 36 packs. Southdown BC was alerted to the offer and submitted a separate order.

(iii) Visit to Seaford Tennis Club

Four committee members visited STC on March 26th and were shown around the premises with a view to STC providing a possible future bridge venue should difficulties arise from the proposed Downs Leisure Centre redevelopment. The visiting party were warmly welcomed and STC are clearly keen to progress the matter. On the positive side STC offers a large, airy hall with suitable furniture which would meet all of our needs. There is a bar area and adequate toilets etc. Additionally, the hiring costs of STC are likely to be lower than Downs Leisure

On the negative side there might be an issue over our current start time for the Friday evening bridge session. Given the existing tennis schedule we would not be able to start as early. Also, parking could be an issue as there is virtually none within the Club premises. Parking options would include the lay-by opposite St Peter's Church and Kedale Road.

No decision was made, and it was left that SBC would await further information about the Downs redevelopment.

Additionally, it was agreed that Pam Pelling would make an 'unofficial' approach to Seaford Golf Club about the cost of hiring their bridge room.

(iv) Timing of the Friday evening playing session

The Chairman had raised the subject of a possible later start to the Friday evening session and there had been no negative feedback.

It was agreed as a trial to change the start date of Friday evening sessions in June to 7.00. Directors would publicise on Tuesday and Friday sessions and note would be placed on the club website.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5. Treasurer's Report

Reported that the current account balance was £.3650.71. The forecast for the end of June was an increase in funds of £1200. To date 2019 attendance was 4% down on 2018.

6. BridgeMate Update

On two recent occasions techies had set up an incorrect number of rounds. For example, for a 7 and a half Skip Mitchell movement 8 rounds had been entered instead of 7. Consequently, at planned end of play BridgeMate prompted pairs to a play further round. This can be corrected by the techie terminating the scoring session. To avoid future confusion, it is important that techies understand that the number of rounds is NOT the number of tables but the number of physical movements made by East/West. A skip round counts as one movement not two.

It was agreed that John should contact all techies to draw this to their attention.

On a positive note on a recent Friday evening when there were only 5 and half tables a Howell movement was executed successfully for the first time.

7. Discussion on Dealing Machines/BridgeMate and Southdown Bridge Club

The Chairman advised that Southdown BC had expressed an interest in using Seaford BC's BridgeMate equipment and to do so was prepared to contribute one third of the purchase cost paid by Seaford - £687.66. They would contribute on the same basis to the future costs of consumables, maintenance etc. Southdown's insurance would cover the costs of accidental damage.

Furthermore, Southdown was prepared to join with Seaford in the purchase of a dealing machine and would again contribute one third of the cost.

It was agreed that:

- Seaford would accept Southdown's offer in respect of both BridgeMate and a dealing machine
- The Chairman, Pam Pelling and a representative from Southdown would form a procurement group for the dealing machine
- A target implementation date for the dealing machine would be December 2019 – by which time Southdown will have the necessary funds available
- The Chairman would write to Southdown advising of Seaford's acceptance of their offer
- An agreement would be drawn up setting out responsibilities etc relating to this joint venture

8. Summer Competition

David Manthorpe has agreed to prepare the hands for use at the Summer Competition on June 21.

It was agreed that DM would be asked to, if possible, provide printed copies of the hands and that the Director of the Summer Competition would ask to not place the boards on the tables until the last possible moment. This to avoid the possibility of any of the pre-prepared decks being inadvertently shuffled.

9. Any Other Business

An application for membership from Alison Johnson was approved. Membership now stands at 89 (7 vacancies). Andy Blann who had played once had expressed further interest in joining and would be available to play from June onwards. He plans to partner Tricia Pape. The 'three times' rule regarding membership would be applied

10. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

Friday August 16, 14.00 at 4 Crown Hill