

SEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12th October at 10am, 21 Churchill Road.

Present Hugh Basden-Smith, Hugh Creamer, Carol Gillespie, John Gillespie, Pam Pelling,
Tony Thorpe (Chairman)

1. Apologies for absence Alan Hughes

- 2. Minutes of the last meeting** held on 3rd August, 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman with one alteration: in Minute 12 the cost given, with regard to last year's Christmas party, of '£8.50 per head' refers only to the Caterer's food cost and not the cost per head of the party as a whole.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence

- i) *Request from Southdown for both clubs to donate £200 for new red armchairs.*

Points from discussion: armchairs are in the region of £100 each; new chairs must be stackable; how will allocation work? - i.e. tables and chairs are set up prior to members arriving: will more red chairs lead to more shuffling around? (and might more people insist on one if more are available); too many larger armchairs sited around the room may cause difficulty for players when attempting to leave or change tables.

Agreed Chairman will contact Southdown to confirm that we are agreed in principle to a donation towards new chairs but citing some of the above reservations and suggesting some research should be carried out to see whether or not more compact ergonomically designed chairs are available. We would assist in research if that would be helpful. **TT**

- ii) *Insurance Documents for 2017/18* received by Secretary and passed to Treasurer for payment by 1st Nov. **HBS**

5. Welfare of Members

Agreed: Carol will check with Marie whether or not a card has been sent to Pat Tyack. **CG**

Noted: A card was sent on behalf of the Committee/Club to Robert.

6. Treasurer's report

- i) Bank Statements, including August, available to Committee on website. September statement circulated at meeting and website will be updated. Forecast up until end of year will be available at our December meeting.
- ii) John raised a query about how rent is deducted if/when Leisure Centre is not available to the club (usually one Tuesday each December). The Treasurer explained that he stops the regular Standing Order for that quarter and inserts a new temporary one with the appropriate reduced figure.

7. Changes to Duplicate Bridge Laws

Alan was to lead on this topic but owing to illness was unable to attend.

Agreed: to proceed with the discussion as there had been consultation with Alan over the previous weeks.

- i) *Feedback on implementation to date*

Alan had circulated email with schedule to Directors who had all duly announced the changes at each session.

ii) *EBU Book*

Agreed: We would continue to follow the rules of play as outlined in the club's Constitution *Clause 12. Rules of play*. We will therefore make no reference to the new permitted play of Strong 2s with at least five controls but would have the EBU book available in the bridge cupboard should members wish to consult.

Agreed: If any issue should arise (e.g. a different interpretation of the rules made by a visitor of the Strong Two opening) the Committee is confident that a common sense approach taken at that time will resolve the issue.

iii) *'Colin's Corner' Article*

Colin's first article runs contrary to our view in (ii) above as it concentrates on following the new permitted understandings of Strong 2 Openings with at least 5 Controls. In discussing whether or not to publish the article the Committee could not reach a unanimous decision with some members arguing *against* publishing because it would be unnecessarily provocative (and confusing) and some arguing *for* the publication because it would provoke lively discussion. The Chairman called for a vote. 3 members voted for publication and 3 against. The Chairman's casting vote was against.

Agreed: The Secretary will write to Colin, prior to the circulation of the Constitution, giving the decision of the Committee on the new Strong Two opening and to inform him that we will not be publishing his article at this time. The Committee also asked the Secretary to thank Colin for his contribution and to state our hope that he might consider submitting another article. **CG**

8. Bridgemate

i(a) *Received:* A response from Southdown Committee re. C.G-H's suggestion of a joint Bridgemate Purchase. Southdown do not feel able to make a financial contribution to the purchase of Bridgemate at this time.

i(b) *Received:* A report from John addressing concerns raised at previous meetings regarding implementation issues.

ii) *Directors/Technical Directors*

Directors: John reported that he has now received responses from *all* Directors and all had agreed to continue with their duties if Bridgemate is implemented.

Technical Directors: Michele has declined to continue in role if Bridgemate is implemented but all others have agreed to be trained and carry out necessary duties. Additionally, Hugh Creamer will again be able to score. Carol Gillespie and Christine Creamer have also offered to undergo training if needed.

Agreed: If implemented, and if further TDs are required, other club members could be approached.

As reported there is a one-off payment of £90 to Scorebridge to release the wireless key. There is still a grey area about annual support costs. A worst case scenario is £50 per year if scorers are required to be paid for individually or £14.00 per year if we are required to pay as a club.

Agreed: A cost of £50 per year would be acceptable. John will email Stephen Bligh at Scorebridge and ask for a clear written quotation of annual costs. **JG**

iii) *Wi-Fi Issues*

Agreed: John's report had resolved the Committee's earlier concerns.

Noted: The possible need for a mobile phone with a wifi hotspot app downloaded may be required at the 60+ Club but any data transfer costs associated with are currently unknown but are likely to be small.

Noted: A sub-committee has been formed at the 60+ Club to investigate installing Wi-Fi in the building for both members and other users of the premises.

iv) *Implementation Plan*

Agreed: the sub-committee would draft an implementation plan next year should the AGM agree to purchase Bridgemate. **JG**

Agreed: to accept Bridgemate's offer of running a session for members. This will take place on (the preferred date of) Tuesday 16th January (with 9th or 23rd as other options). John will liaise with Bridgemate. The Chairman thanked John for his excellent report. **JG**

9. SGM/ Draft Constitution – 14th November

Agreed: Tony will introduce to the members; Hugh will outline changes. Tony will ask if there are any questions. **TT/HBS**

Agreed: Capitalization to be removed from 'International Laws of Contract Bridge [....] / Duplicate Bridge' in clause 12 as presently it looks as if we are referring to a now defunct authoritative body. **CG**

Agreed: The Secretary to circulate/display two versions – a copy of the Proposed Constitution and a draft one showing amendments/deletions. **CG**

10. Christmas Party

i) Update - including Caterer's price per head for food

The Chairman reported that the quote from the caterer, Jan Jemmet, for food is £7.00 per head. In addition members will be greeted with Mulled Wine and a sausage roll prepared by the sub-committee. **Hugh** (and Francoise) will purchase wine; **Carol** will purchase soft drinks; **John** will prepare a quiz. **Carol** to prepare a partner list for members to sign up. When a firmer idea of numbers is known **Hugh (C)** will decide the content of the evening. The Chairman reminded us that members, in response to a post-2016 Christmas Party questionnaire, had specifically stated a preference for duplicate/competition Bridge. Prizes for duplicate competition winners will be table money refunded as at a normal session; other prizes (e.g. spot prizes) to be determined when numbers are known.

11. Members' Items

i) A proposal from Peter Parsons that the 2017 AGM, or a future AGM, be held on a Friday evening to allow those who cannot attend on a Tuesday to participate.

Points from discussion: There were more members who only attended a Tuesday session than there were those who only attended a Friday session. The larger room used for Tuesday sessions is more suited to sitting comfortably; Southdown hold their AGM in May, so a later evening going home time is less of a problem than our members would face as we hold our AGM at the end of February.

The committee couldn't reach a unanimous decision and so a vote was held. Peter's proposal was defeated 4-2.

Agreed: The Secretary would write to Peter informing him of the Committee's decision. **CG**

12. Diary Dates

November 14th SGM

December 1st Winter Competition

December 15th Christmas Party

January 2nd Nibbles

January 16th Bridgemate Demo *unconfirmed at present.*

January 25th 2018 pre AGM Committee meeting – 41 Valley Drive

February 27th AGM

13. AOB

14. Date and Venue of next meeting

Thursday 7th December, 10.00am, 1 Richington Way

The Chairman thanked Hugh for his Hospitality.