

BWS (Brierfield/Warrington/Stretford) Bridge Club

Organisers' Meeting held on Zoom

Saturday 19th December 2020

Present

David Tilley (B/W/S)- chair
Richard Aubery (Stretford)
Linda Banks (Brierfield)
Chris Collison (Stretford)
Mike Dennis (Warrington)
Janet Jagan (Warrington)
Jim Steele (Warrington)

1 Welcome

David Tilley chaired the meeting.
Jim Steele agreed to take minutes.

2 Apologies

Norman Cope (Brierfield)
Alan Crabtree (Brierfield)

3 Chairman's Report

On-line bridge continues to grow week on week, with now typically over 70 tables per week, on a mix of BBO and RealBridge. The Wednesday afternoon session, now on RealBridge, has picked up well, so there is no reason why it shouldn't continue. Running our existing 6 sessions per week (5 regular duplicate pairs, and one supervised Gentle duplicate pairs, will therefore carry on, with possibly the addition of some new events.

Various other topics were also mentioned; these are picked up later in the agenda.

4 Current and New Sessions

Moving more of our sessions over from BBO to RealBridge was discussed. It was agreed we should retain a mix of BBO and RealBridge, as some members have a strong preference for one or the other. We agreed to continue with RealBridge for Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings, and to move Friday evenings over to RealBridge from 1st January. We will also consider moving the 10-high Monday afternoon session over to RealBridge, but will canvas opinion before deciding.

ACTION: all 3 Clubs to canvas opinion, with those members who've played on Monday afternoons.

We agreed that we would try out holding a monthly teams night, starting on the first Tuesday in February (2nd Feb). Registration of teams of four will be required in advance. This is entirely separate from the Lockdown League Teams of Four, which is running until mid-April. We will advertise, with a deadline of midnight on Sunday 31st January. **Action: all 3 clubs to advertise.**

We also discussed holding a monthly Swiss pairs competition, on RealBridge, on the last Friday of the month, in place of the regular duplicate pairs. The first date would be Friday 29th January. We will confirm this at our next BWS Committee meeting. **Action: DT**

Start times for evening sessions were discussed, in particular having an earlier start of 7pm or 7.15pm. We agreed to keep things as they stand for the time being.

Results: in order to make the process easier for uploading of results, David said he would set up a Dropbox folder to hold the results and hands files, and make access available to JSS, JJ, and LB, so that we could access them and upload directly, without DT having to send them by email each time.

Action DT

5 Sessions over the Christmas and New Year Period

Most sessions will run as normal, but we will add some special festive season events.

The schedule agreed is as follows

Date/time	Session	Venue	No of Boards	Director
Wed 23/12 1:30pm	Afternoon Duplicate Pairs	RealBridge	16-20	Josh
Thurs 24/12 7:30pm	Christmas Eve Festive Goulash	RealBridge	18-22	Chris Collison/DT
Sat 26/12 2pm	Boxing day Duplicate Pairs	RealBridge	18-20	DT
Sun 27/12 11am	Sunday morning Duplicate Pairs	BBO	16-18	DT
Mon 28/12 1:30pm	10-high Duplicate pairs	BBO	16-20	Josh
Mon 28/12 7:30pm	Evening Duplicate Pairs	BBO	22-24	DT
Wed 30/12 1:30pm	Afternoon Duplicate Pairs	RealBridge	16-20	Josh
Thurs 31/12 10am	Pro-am duplicate pairs – random draw for partners	RealBridge	16	DT
Thurs 31/12 8pm	New Year's Eve Party & Quiz – bring your own buffet & booze	RealBridge	20	DT
Fri 1/1 7:30pm	Evening Duplicate pairs	RealBridge (changed from BBO)	20-24	DT
Sun 3/1 11am	Sunday morning Duplicate Pairs	BBO	16-18	DT

Those in red are extras or changes from our regular programme.

The programme would be posted on Stretford, Warrington, and Brierfield websites. **Action DT/JSS/LB**

Dave Tilley would provide contact details for Josh Clarke, in case of need for sessions where he is directing. **Action DT**

6 RealBridge

Current problems:

- There have been some updates of the system recently, but some issues remain with people who use iPad or iMacs. These don't arise if people use Chrome or another browser rather than Safari.
- There is also a problem with people not logging out of RealBridge at the end of a session - sometimes people have been found still logged in, days after an event. Clicking on "Leave" merely puts the person into the RealBridge lobby; the correct procedure is to close the page/tab on their browser. This is usually quite obvious on a PC, but on an iPad it is less so.
- Another irritating and time consuming issue for the organiser is people not entering their names in a suitable format when joining a RealBridge session, ie Forename Surname. Sometimes it's just a first name, or the whole name with no spaces, no capitals, all capitals, or even a BBO username. That requires tedious work to go in and edit the file to make it presentable for the website, and so the names correspond to our database for counting attendances.

David will produce a short guide to provide information on what to do.

Action DT

Posting the link for a RealBridge session: sometimes it's difficult to ensure the link is posted on the Clubs' websites in time for a RealBridge event, if it is only sent out by email the night before. The agreed solution is that David will obtain the links for a whole week of events, and post it in a Dropbox file for us to access. Warrington and Brierfield will then be able to post the links in plenty of time.

Action DT

"PLAY" option on the website: Jim has received some complaints from a few members that on certain, but not all, RealBridge sessions, the results on the website do not include the "play" option. This option is useful as it allows a person to see again what the bidding was on their table, and how the hand was played, so they can learn and improve. The reason needs to be sorted out with RealBridge, although it does appear that the results file is available in two options, one with "play" and one without.

Action DT

7 Education

Since the last meeting we have held a Zoom meeting of an Education sub-committee, on 10th November. There is the possibility of Mike Hickling running a course for beginners, and possibly one for improvers, comprising a series of extended lessons (2+ hours) with break-out practice play. The courses would be run independently by Mike, not by any of the BWS Clubs, and he would charge the participants directly. However, the Clubs would refer names of possible participants to Mike.

Action DT/JSS +Mike Hickling.

Lessons on Zoom have been running on alternate Thursday mornings, from the start of October, followed by Supervised Gentle Duplicate with prepared hands on the theme of the lesson. The lessons last about 30 minutes, are topic based, and aimed at Improvers. Take-up has been encouraging, with about 30 attendees. They are provided free of charge, with lesson notes posted on the Clubs' websites. Jim agreed to continue with them every fortnight, the next one being on 7th January, on an "Introduction to Slam Bidding".

Action JSS

9 Invoicing

At the previous meeting, David reported that the Manchester Bridge Association is rebating the 7p per player charge. The rebate has now been received. This takes our EBU charges to 40p per player per session, rather than the previous 47p. It is unclear how/if other counties might charge, but since all our events are reported through Stretford, this is probably irrelevant.

Guests: it was agreed that there is no problem if Clubs allow indefinite numbers of guest appearances, provided that they have a satisfactory mechanism for charging.

Summary of charges per session:

- RealBridge: 36p per player up to 20 boards; 48p per player for longer sessions. Including EBU charges: 76p up to 20 boards; 88p when more than 20 boards.
- BBO: 80p per player; including EBU charges, £1.20 per player.

In addition, the standard TD fee is £40 per session, though some have not been being charged, such as Charity sessions and Supervised Duplicates.

At present, no invoice has been submitted to Warrington to Brierfield for the costs of our on-line bridge. This is urgent, as the Clubs need to complete their end-of-year accounts. David said that he is aiming to have these out before the end of the month. **Action DT**

Key aspects include:

- Charitable donations – how much has been paid to each charity we have supported? This needs to be reconciled with the donations as recorded by each Club.
- The bill for the costs of the CiN events will be invoiced to the Clubs separately.
- Allocation to a Club: the vast majority of players are members of one of the three BWS Clubs, or are guests of their members, so charging responsibility is clear. However, there are some players who might be falling between the slats. This will be picked up, as DT will allocate every player (by a colour code) to one of the three Clubs. If a Club finds players allocated to it who are not its members, the process will flag up an anomaly. Any players who are not being charged will be asked to join the Club closest to them geographically, and pay the charges owing to that Club (or to pay for all their appearances at the visitor rate). It is recognised that this might entail some extra admin for a Club to which this turns out to apply.

10 Festival of Bridge Week

Brierfield have a tradition of holding a Festival of Bridge week. The Committee agreed that this should be looked at, but the earliest date now was probably February. The idea is a week of a variety of bridge formats/themes, all free to members. We will discuss next time.

AGENDA for Next Meeting

11 Psych book

Psychs are a legal part of the game, but they can create bad feeling. We have not had a big problem in BWS so far, but one player has done it twice recently. DT has therefore set up a Psych book to record any such occurrences. Our policy is that if any player is recorded on 3 occasions, we will report the player to the EBU.

12 AOB

The Teams of Four Lockdown league, as proposed last time by Jim, has been advertised. We now have 7 teams taking part in a round robin, to be completed by mid-April. The rules and entries can be seen on the Warrington website, here [Warrington Bridge Club, Warrington \(bridgewebs.com\)](http://Warrington Bridge Club, Warrington (bridgewebs.com))
There is still room for more teams if any other members want to join in.

Etiquette:

As minutes last time, there continue to be some problems with people not using the correct alerting method on BBO, or omitting to alert altogether. Undo's for mis-clicks is also sometimes an issue. It was agreed we should communicate with members about the correct alerting procedure; that undo's are allowed for bidding mis-clicks but not in play of the cards; and that if an undo request is declined, the TD should be called. The over-riding message is that we are here to enjoy playing friendly bridge, so being considerate, and getting on with the play, rather than pursuing perceived "wrongs", is the ethos of BWS. **Action: Draft a communiqué for the three Clubs: DT**

13 Date of next BWS Organisers' meeting

The date agreed is Saturday 9th January, at 0930hrs.