

## BWS Organisers' Meeting

Held on Zoom, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 930am

Present: David Tilley (chair), Linda Banks, Norman Cope, Mike Dennis, Frank Eade, Jim Steele, Helen Wright

1. David welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies.

None

### 3. Minutes of last meeting, held 11/12/21.

These were accepted. There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.

### 4. BWS On-line sessions

The only change since last time is that the Monday afternoon 10-high has been suspended due to poor support. Players looking for an on-line game on Monday afternoons have been recommended to play on Adam Wiseberg's site, where there is friendly RealBridge on Monday (and Tuesday) afternoons. Neither Warrington nor Brierfield report these results on their Club websites, nor wish to, but Stretford do. There were no proposed changes to the present schedule of 3 BWS events weekly.

Jim raised the possibility of resurrecting our weekly gentle duplicate, which used to run during lockdown, on Thursday mornings. In order to avoid a clash with other Club sessions, a Tuesday morning would be the best slot. This will be considered at a future date, for example in the autumn. It would be guided play, therefore not attract EBU charges, Master Points, or NGS gradings. It would be quite simple to run on RealBridge.

### 5. Individual club updates

Stretford are still struggling with F2F session attendances. Brierfield are OK, but still not achieving pre-lockdown levels. Warrington's Monday evening Club night is reasonable, but not up to pre-lockdown levels, and Thursday morning teaching sessions are well supported. However, Thursday afternoon duplicates have not taken off, which bucks the national trend of afternoon sessions being more popular than evenings.

Jim mentioned the Bridge for Pleasure website, and their work (headed by Nicky Bainbridge) on the "New Normal". There is a useful bank of data, newsletters, and a monthly Zoom discussion which anyone is free to join. The Zoom discussions are recorded, and previous session can be viewed. [Bridge for Pleasure, Rugby, Warwickshire \(bridgewebs.com\)](https://www.bridgewebs.com)

### 6. Code of Conduct

The draft procedure, circulated by DT, was approved, with the amendment that if the BWS Management Committee is not unanimous on a disciplinary issue, then a vote will be taken where each constituent Club has one vote.

### 7. ECats Aid for Ukraine charity sessions

We agreed that the BWS Sessions on Monday evening 11th and Friday evening 15th April would be Ecats Ukraine charity sessions. The normal charge would be £5 per person, with £2 to cover Club costs and £3 to Ecats; however, each Club is free to make its own charging arrangements if they prefer something different.

## **8. Incident on Friday 11th March**

An incident occurred at the BWS session on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, where a player became abusive of his opponents in a dispute over a bid they had made; the TD was called, and the player argued and was abusive to the TD, and then absented himself from the session in progress. Furthermore, the offending player then sent an email to various parties, including the EBU, and others unconnected to the incident, making various serious accusations. The Management Committee discussed what happened at the table on the night, studying various email communications which had been sent about the incident, including the email sent by the offending person.

The Committee unanimously agreed that the player's conduct was absolutely unacceptable, and debated how it should be dealt with. The Committee agreed that the offending player will be suspended for three months from playing in BWS events, and will be asked to write an unreserved letter of apology to all the parties involved, including the BWS committee, the TD on the night, his playing partner, the EBU, and all parties whom he had emailed about the incident. If a suitable written apology was not provided to the satisfaction of the Management Committee, before the end of the 3 month period of suspension, then the offending player would be permanently excluded from playing in BWS events.

Because of personal involvement with the offender, as someone with whom he sometimes plays, the Chairman was not party to the decision.

The Chairman will draft a letter to be sent to the offender, and circulate to the Committee for comment/approval. **ACTION DT**

The Committee discussed how to publicize the issue. We agreed that it would be reported on Club websites, so that people are aware that we take firm action in the event of unacceptable conduct.

## **9. BWS relationship with Adam Wiseberg Bridge**

The Committee discussed whether we should look for a more formal relationship between BWS and Adam Wiseberg Bridge. Norman reported that Brierfield Committee had already voted against expansion of BWS to include other Clubs. Warrington had a different view, that we should be open to expansion to boost table numbers and the general viability of the operation.

The Committee decided that at least for the time being, we were happy to keep things as they are. Clubs are free to promote Adam's sessions. Warrington website already does this, but Brierfield's does not. Stretford include Adam's Monday and Tuesday afternoon sessions in their Club calendar.

## **10. AOB**

There was discussion on the disruption being caused by people logging on to play at the last minute.

We agreed a deadline of 5 minutes before start of play, after which anyone turning up might be turned away.

We would probably accept late arrivals if they made up a half table to a whole one, but otherwise refuse access to play. This will be communicated to TD's. **Action DT**

Norman raised a concern that while BWS results directed by Adam were uploaded promptly to the EBU, those directed by Josh usually had some delay. David said this was because Adam had the Stretford log in details, and was able to post the results directly. David said he would look into how this might be resolved. **Action DT**

## **11. DONM**

TBA