

Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting

Saturday 21st August 2021, 1030am

Present Jim Steele (Chair), Mike Dennis (Secretary), Janet Jagan (acting Treasurer), David Burrows, Malcolm Roberts, Angie Pinnington

1. Apologies: Helen Wright (retiring Treasurer)
2. Minutes of last meeting, held 31st July 2021.

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

3. Minutes of last BWS meeting, held 17th July 2021

These have still not been circulated, although Jim has updated the committee about items of relevance to Warrington Bridge Club, and included a précis of key points in our WBC minutes of 31st July.

4. AGM

As previously agreed, this will be held on-line on Zoom, on Saturday 11th September at 1030am. Members have been notified by email, and the required notices posted in the Members area on the website. There was a query that some members might not have seen group email from Jim, sent out on 8th August. A reminder will be posted on the website.

ACTION Jim

Presentation of the accounts: the accounts have been audited for 2020, and also for the first half of 2021. Mike will check with Helen about how these will be dealt with and presented at the AGM. **ACTION Mike**

5. Committee

Helen and Janet have actioned the handover but we are now waiting for the bank to complete their process for Janet to have full access.

New auditor (Geoff Fisher has said he wishes to retire from this duty): the committee agreed with the action taken to appoint a new auditor; this will be recommended to the Club at the AGM.

6. Preparations to restart F2F bridge

6a Premises: Mike gave a further update on possible venues and availability. The clear favourite was Alford Sports & Social Club. Plus points are

- Good central location
- Excellent parking facilities
- Reasonable cost
- Large room to accommodate us, with plenty of space between tables
- Can accommodate all our sessions in one venue

After some discussion, we agreed to proceed with this booking. Mike will arrange with the manager (Jessica) on Monday and cover related issues, such as keys /access, storage/ security of equipment, access to refreshments, duration of our booking, etc.

Restart timing and dates: Thursday sessions will start on 9th September, 10am-12 noon for the morning teaching session, and 1pm (for 1.15pm start of play) to 4.30pm. Monday sessions will start on 13th September, 7pm for 7.15pm start of play. Mondays will be a full Club session (24+ boards). We are as yet uncertain whether to do the same on Thursday afternoons – we will reserve judgement until we see who turns up and what they prefer.

We felt it was very difficult to know how many players to expect after restart. We will encourage people to turn up even if they haven't got a partner, by operating a hosting system, at least for the first few weeks.

We will notify members of the restart arrangements, by email and by notice on the website.

ACTION Jim

6b Duplication of Equipment: no longer relevant, as Alford will be a single venue.

6c We felt it was very unlikely that any WBC members would be interested in accessing the Stretford F2F sessions, given the distance, and the fact that we are going to have our own F2F sessions very soon.

6d TD's: we will be short of TD's. To be discussed next time.

6e Bridgemate login numbers: members might well have forgotten their numbers after so many months away. We will check whether we have a sheet with those on. It could be in the bridge equipment which Mike is custodian of at present. **ACTION Mike**

7. Review of sessions going forward

We are now clear on Warrington F2F sessions, but we now need to resolve the mix of online BWS sessions and F2F Club sessions, to account for the restart of F2F bridge at each of the three clubs. Jim will follow up with Brierfield and Stretford. **Action Jim**

Our suggestions, for BWS discussion, are:

- The Monday evening on-line session, which clashes with Club night for both Brierfield and Warrington, be moved to a Tuesday evening.
- Thursday morning supervised duplicate pairs, which will clash with our F2F teaching session, be moved to a Friday morning.
- Sunday morning and Friday evening on-line sessions don't clash with any F2F sessions, and should be retained.
- Monday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon on-line sessions, which clash with Brierfield and Stretford F2F sessions, be withdrawn.

8. Club finances

8a Update on 2021 operating costs – all OK - nothing new to report.

8b Charity payments from 2020: we will follow up once Janet has on-line bank access.

9. Education

We are strategically committed to being a teaching Club, for our long term survival and growth, and arrangements to work alongside Warrington U3A are well advanced. There will be three parallel classes on Thursday mornings: beginners and improvers, run by U3A, at the Olive Tree, Penketh, and a Next level class, run by WBC, at Alford S&S Club. We need to work to attract numbers to all three.

Angie suggested asking U3A to remind all members about the sessions for learning bridge (years one & two at the Olive Tree, and year three at Alford) including an email to their members specifically about bridge, rather than as part of wider communication about a range of U3A activities. Malcolm will discuss with Andrew Young. **ACTION Malcolm**

We will post an item on our website advertising the teaching classes. Jim will draft an item for comment, along the lines suggested by Malcolm. **ACTION Jim**

Support to run the teaching activity: we need a group of people who can cover for Jim, to share the load (although Malcolm pointed out that as a fail-safe, an occasional session could be run without teaching). We also need a group of people as general helpers, to support by going round the tables and answering queries that arise during a lesson. **ACTION Mike** to ring round possibles.

We also considered increasing our number of sets of boards for use with the Dealing machine, to make it easier for them to be redealt after use, and to have sets available to use in the learner sessions.

Equipment: there is a need to consider getting some tech equipment (eg projector) to assist with teaching. This would be an appropriate use of the residue of our grant. Jim will investigate what might be suitable. **ACTION Jim**

10. AOB

Angie reported a conversation with the IT experts at Deva, regarding their proposal to run a hybrid system for some sessions, using the same boards in the Club as on-line. Whilst this ought to be technically possible, it is hard to see the advantages if the players in the club and on-line are separate groups that don't play against each other in the session. We will be interested in further information, but otherwise will not follow it up. We seek to avoid direct competition between on-line and F2F, and don't want to run sessions which clash – getting the numbers increased in F2F is a priority.

11. Date of Next meeting:

Provisionally Friday 17th September, at 10am.