

**Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, 930am, on Zoom**

Present: Mike Dennis (chair), Jim Steele (secretary), Janet Jagan, (Treasurer), Carolyn Bailey, Malcolm Roberts, Janine Curwell.

**1 Apologies:** Brigitte Massey

**2 Minutes of previous meeting** held Saturday 11th March 2023: accepted as a true record.  
There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.

**3 BWS: On-line activities**

Jim shared the current version of the rolling spreadsheet which tallies up attendances, costs, and income in our on-line sessions, to update the Committee. Almost all sessions show a small profit, with Fridays better attended than Mondays. Monday evenings (BBO) clash with F2F sessions for both Warrington and Brierfield. The meeting agreed we are generally OK with the current arrangements.

However, we are aware of a suggestion from Dave Tilley (Stretford), supported by Brierfield, to change Mondays from BBO to RealBridge. Jim commented that there is a regular group who play on Mondays, and some might have a strong preference for BBO; he suggested we survey the Monday on-line regulars, before making any change. Jim will contact Stretford and Brierfield to discuss. **ACTION Jim**

**4 F2F Activities/ Alford Hall**

- a. **Disabled parking spaces.** The campaign by Alford Hall has alleviated the problem somewhat.
- b. **Various possible actions and improvements:** Jim had emailed Alford Hall as they suggested, before their committee meeting, listing some possible things which might be done (eg décor in bridge room (Festival Suite), sorting out the storeroom (especially uneven floor), permission to put up a WBC sign or banner). We have followed up with an informal discussion with the Manager, and we now await their committee response by email, which has been promised. Hopefully we will then be able to proceed with the relevant actions.
- c. **Container for mugs:** Janet commented that having them all in one big box made it too heavy for most people to carry. We will procure 2 or 3 shallower plastic containers. **ACTION Jim**
- d. **Setting up on Monday evenings:** we need more members to help with setting up and putting away afterwards. Mike agreed to follow up. **ACTION Mike**
- e. **Monday evening joint relaxed duplicate** for newer players to join in: there are 6 in the calendar for 2023, two of which have already been held (as well as one in November last year).
  - i. The most recent one was poorly attended, due to lack of chivvying up and reminding people it was on (Jim & Hilary were away). This will be corrected for the next one on 26<sup>th</sup> June.  
**ACTION Jim & Hilary**
  - ii. We discussed which charity for the next one on 26 June, and agreed local Salvation Army.
  - iii. We discussed last time how much help should be given to inexperienced players. We were all agreed regarding points of etiquette, but there were different views on helping with bidding/play. The TD on the night should make a clear announcement on the expectations for the session. **ACTION Dave Burrows**
- f. **Thursday morning gentle duplicate sessions:** a very successful format, and we confirmed we will proceed as published in our calendar. It helps mix the Improvers and Intermediates, and gets people used to more formal sessions and attending Alford Hall. Next one is next week, 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- g. **Club Socials:** we will continue as per our calendar, but try to improve the advertising/ awareness for next time, which is the summer social on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

- h. **TD rota:** we have a number of trained TD's for Monday evenings: DB, PJ, MS, SH, KP. David Burrows agreed to set up a list for ~ 2 months ahead. **ACTION Dave Burrows**
- i. **Thursday afternoons:** we agreed to try to continue to build the Thursday afternoon relaxed duplicate pairs, which was running OK at present, albeit with only 3 or 4 tables. We agreed not to do any more Thursday afternoon advanced lessons until 2024 at the earliest. Jim will amend our 2023 calendar accordingly. **ACTION Jim.** We recognized that over the summer months (Thursday 6 July to 7 September inclusive) there will be only one session on Thursdays, a morning one, with no lessons. This is the same arrangement as last year, and it worked well.

## 5. **Membership update/ publicity**

- a. We now have 109 members: 68 Full, 20 New Player, and 21 On-line. Membership is creeping up slowly but steadily. We have had 6 new members in 2023, with a couple more in the pipeline.
- b. The main vehicle for publicity is the website, which helps, but we need to be more proactive.
  - i. Stockton Heath Festival (late June/early July) Mike agreed to have a table and hand out advertising material. Jim will pass him the material we already have, for re-use (marked up 2023 instead of 2022) **ACTION Jim/Mike**
  - ii. Banner or rigid notice on posts outside Alford Hall: Jim will pursue with Alford to get their approval before proceeding. **ACTION Jim**
  - iii. Facebook: we will post an advert on the What's on in Warrington Facebook page. **ACTION Jim**

## 6 **Finances**

- a. Janet said all was sound, except for the irritation and extra work caused by some persistent late payers needing to be chased up (generally Thursday people). We agreed that Janet would pass information on to Mike and Jim for them to pursue, rather than having to do this herself. **ACTION Janet**
- b. Gift for auditor: the Committee last time approved that we should provide a gift. Jim has done this.

## 7. **New Committee, post 2023 AGM, and roles**

All the roles were agreed, as follows:

- |    |                               |                 |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Chairman                      | Mike Dennis     |
| 2. | Secretary/ Education/ Website | Jim Steele      |
| 3. | Treasurer                     | Janet Jagan     |
| 4. | Competitions secretary/TD's   | David Burrows   |
| 5. | Social secretary              | Janine Curwell  |
| 6. | U3a liaison/ teaching         | Malcolm Roberts |
| 7. | U3a liaison/ teaching         | Brigitte Massey |
| 8. | Secretarial support           | Carolyn Bailey  |

## 8. **2023 Competitions/ trophies**

**8.1 Club Trophies:** these have now all been located and retrieved, except for a new trophy (Elizabeth Bennett Memorial Trophy) which Carol Bingham has received from Elizabeth's daughter. Mike agreed to arrange engraving of the two awarded on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. (one with Carolyn, the other with Keith /Stuart) **ACTION Mike**

## 8.2 Competitions for 2023: we agreed the following:

- i. Elizabeth Bennett memorial trophy: date changed at request of Carol Bingham to the Monday nearest Elizabeth's birthday; for 2023 this is 3<sup>rd</sup> July. It will be an annual handicap duplicate pairs event (one winner movement). Carol has the trophy.  
There is an issue with displaying handicaps on Bridgewebs on the session results page. The solution is to create a competition on Bridgewebs with the handicap rules assigned, just for this one event. We will then be able to see and display the handicap results on the night. Jim has now set this up.
- ii. Teams (Jordan Vase): being played over 5 Monday evenings as handicap XIMPs pairs, instead of Teams of 4. Dates are 27/3, 29/5, 31/7, 25/9, and 27/11. We agreed best 3 of 5 to count. Handicap results ytd are shown in Competitions tab, 2023 Jordan vase X-imps.
- iii. Monday Evening best average of the year: scratch and handicap pairs (ie 2 competitions). We specified a minimum number of appearances to qualify: 12.
- iv. Friday evening on-line best average of the year: scratch and handicap, pairs (ie 2 competitions). We specified a minimum number of appearances to qualify: 12.
- v. Most improved player over the year, based on precise (ie to 2 decimal points) NGS grade on 1/1/23. Caveats: (1) if a player has no grade, but acquires one during the year, their start point is their first grading (2) We exclude members who are on-line only.
- vi. Thursday afternoons: not sufficient playing numbers as yet to make a competition viable, but we will keep under review.

## 9. Education /Teaching

- a. Thursday morning Intermediate class: we are near the end of the current year: 29<sup>th</sup> June is the last one. U3a are starting their next year's intake lessons on 14 September. WBC will do the same for our Intermediate Class.
- b. We should have more support from September onwards, eg to make up table numbers, Thursdays 1030-12 noon (Brigitte and Brenda).
- c. Feedback from class members: we will survey our participants to help us improve our offering for next year. **ACTION Jim**
- d. Advanced lessons: we agreed to prioritize building up the Thursday afternoon relaxed duplicate sessions, and not do any more advanced lessons until 2024. See minute 4i above.

## 10. AOB None.

## 11. Date of next meeting (on Zoom)

This will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at 0930, ie in 3 months' time.

Jim Steele  
4/6/23