

**Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting
Saturday 4th December 2021, 930am**

Present: Jim Steele (chair), Mike Dennis (secretary), Janet Jagan (treasurer), Angie Pinnington, David Burrows, Helen Wright, Malcolm Roberts.

1 Apologies: none. All present.

2 Minutes of previous meeting, held 23rd October 2021: accepted. No matters arising not on today's agenda.

3 BWS Matters (on-line bridge)

- a) The Committee agreed that on-line bridge, though understandably of no interest to some members, is valued by many, and should continue alongside F2F bridge, and be managed in such a way to try to give us the best of both worlds.
- b) Jim gave an update on the relevant BWS issues. The BWS Organizing Group had previously suggested that we should change the threshold for the different TD rate down to 8 tables, from 1st November. So for sessions with up to 8 tables the charge would be £25, and for 9 or more, £40. There is another meeting next Saturday 11th December at which this will be discussed.
- c) Jim highlighted the activity in all BWS sessions since the F2F restart, regarding the participation levels of Warrington members. We still have enough participation so that on-line bridge makes a positive contribution to Club finances, though some sessions are very poorly attended by Warrington players and we do make a small loss on those. The Friday evening RealBridge session is particularly popular with Warrington. We decided that Warrington should continue to support all the present sessions until at least end of January, and review again then. This will include other possible changes, eg whether Brierfield decide at their AGM to continue in BWS, and whether other bridge clubs might join in.

4 Review of F2F bridge at Alford Hall

- a) The Committee felt that Monday evenings were satisfactory so far, and that 7 tables was a very reasonable position when compared to how F2F bridge was faring generally in the country. However, we will continue to work on ideas to boost attendance.
- b) Thursday afternoons are still poorly attended, probably for a number of reasons. Some of it is self-fulfilling, eg if people do turn up and the session is poor, they might not bother next time. It was suggested we are more proactive in contacting members, eg a phone around, and possibly "selling" this session by holding special events. Another idea mooted was to have booking for the session, and cancel if not enough people booked.
- c) We need more helpers to set up the Monday evening sessions. Publicize and announce at each session.

Action Jim Steele

We need to show people where the equipment is stored and how to get access (combination locks etc).
- d) People to operate the Club laptop for running and scoring F2F sessions: we now probably have enough, with Janet Jagan and Jim Steele added to the previous list.
- e) TD's: we are still short of what we need. There are some who have been trained but who are reluctant to do it. We will approach possibles to request they are added to our list.

Action Mike Dennis

We will guarantee that anyone new will be mentored for sessions until they are comfortable, and that there is no need to carry out the IT activity (using the laptop, etc) unless they want to, as someone else will do that part. If we can get enough we will organize a training session, possibly jointly with another Club.

- f) Website: the website is achieving some success in attracting new people, particularly new players.
- g) We have been approached to host a County event on Sunday 22nd May . The extra venue date has been booked.

5 Finances

- a) Janet reported that the overall position is satisfactory.
- b) Outstanding receipts for sundry purchases (tea, coffee, biscuits, milk etc) – these will be given to Janet, once a few have been accumulated, and she will make a bank transfer payment to the person who has incurred the expense.
- c) Outstanding bills for session fees for Sept/Oct: only one small account remains unpaid. To be chased up.
- d) Gift for outgoing Auditor: this has been procured, and will be presented, with a card, at the earliest opportunity (Monday 6th Dec?) **Action Jim Steele .**
- e) Wine for Christmas socials: already procured by Jim.
- f) Charity payments for 2020: Jim will provide the required info to Janet to that the payments can be made. **Action Jim Steele .**
- g) Membership payments to Alford Hall.
 The Committee agreed that the Alford membership fees for 2022 onwards would need to be passed on to members, by adding £5 to the annual subscriptions due in January 2022. The mechanism for paying Alford is yet to be finalized. Because of the way Alford do things, the Secretary will work out with the Alford Hall Manager how much the club will owe Alford early next year, and will provide the Manager with enough member information for her to register individual memberships of Alford Hall to fulfill their own operating conditions. (**Action Mike Dennis**). The general intent is that we will not require members to make their own arrangements; rather, we will pay Alford en bloc.
 There was some debate about how to present this, eg just increase the subscription for all F2F players by £5, or keep the subscriptions as they are and add a £5 surcharge for Alford Hall. A possible option is as follows:
 - Full member £20 (£15 subscription plus £5 Alford Hall), with option to opt out of the Alford payment if declaring they are over 80 (as Alford membership is free for over 80's; we do not keep records of members' dates of birth, nor do we want to start doing so).
 - New Player member £10 (£5 subscription plus £5 Alford Hall), with option to opt out of the Alford payment if declaring they are over 80.
 - Member playing on-line only: £10. This is a reduction of £5, to help us retain and attract on-line members, to improve the viability of our on-line activities into 2022 and beyond.

6 Calendar/events over Christmas period

Our Face to Face Sessions over the Christmas period will be:

Monday evenings: There will be no Monday evening session at Alford Hall on Monday 27th December. We will resume on Monday 3rd January - even though it's a Bank Holiday.

Thursdays: no class on Thursday mornings 23rd and 30th December; resume on Thursday 6th January.

No Thursday afternoon session on 23rd and 30th December; resume on Thursday 6th January.

Christmas socials: we will have mince pies and mulled wine, at no extra charge to members, on Monday evening 20th December – half an hour early start, at 630pm

Thursday morning 16th December – normal start time of 10am

This information will be put on the website and the Club noticeboard, and announced at the next Monday evening session.

Action Jim Steele

7 Education

Thursday mornings at Alford Hall (year 3) are still proceeding well, with around 4 full tables.

Update from Malcolm Roberts on Thursday morning U3A:

Year 1 (beginners) has now picked up to a full class, now that the extra tutor is available.

Year 2 (improvers) is well attended, with approximately twenty regular attenders who seem keen to progress and intend to join our year 3 class at Alford hall next year (September 2022).

Malcolm has planned a first joint session, a gentle duplicate, of years 2 and 3 at Alford hall on 20/1/22, and intends this to be a regular feature. We will also run some joint teaching classes for years 2 and 3 combined. The aim is to start integrating learners into club sessions. We will broadcast to members to come and help at the 20th January session, nearer the time.

8 AOB

None. The meeting closed at 1050hrs.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 29th January at 930am, on Zoom.