

Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting
Saturday 5th March 2022, 930am

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

- 1 Apologies:** none, all present.
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting**, held 5th February 2022: accepted. No matters arising not on today's agenda.
- 3 BWS Update**
Jim updated the committee about ongoing BWS issues.
 - Brierfield had held their AGM and were staying with BWS, rather than exiting as had been feared.
 - The Monday afternoon 10-high has been suspended from the beginning of March 2022, due to lack of sufficient support. Members are being redirected as an interim measure, via Warrington's website, to Adam Wiseberg's site, for a friendly game on RealBridge on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon. Any members playing in those sessions will need to pay Adam directly, as it is not part of BWS.
 - However, we will have discussions about our future relationship with Adam's site, at our next BWS Organizer's meeting, at present scheduled for 19th March.
- 4 Review of our activities since restarting F2F Bridge**
 - a) On-line:** table numbers/ Warrington participation continue to pick up, and our on-line activities make a small but positive contribution to Club finances. Jim shared a spreadsheet showing the on-line activity in 2022 to date, including income and costs. Friday evenings are our most popular session. The Committee agreed to continue the present arrangements, with the exception of the Monday afternoon 10-high.
 - b) F2F**
 - i. There was some discussion about aspects of the current venue, where certain members had expressed dissatisfaction. The Committee had spent a lot of time and effort getting venue suggestions from members, when Belong was no longer an option, and following them up. There was nothing else available which satisfied our requirements, at an affordable cost. However, there are aspects which can and should be addressed, notably car park lighting, heating, and disabled car parking availability. Mike will follow up with Alford management.
ACTION Mike
 - ii. The question of having a tea break in Monday evening sessions, as we used to do at Belong, was discussed. Most of the committee felt this was not a good idea, as it would delay the finish time, but it was agreed that at each session the TD could poll players at the start of a session, and decide.
 - iii. Dealing machine arrangements: we will continue the present arrangement, with the machine held and operated by Keith Perry.
 - iv. Thursday morning sessions: attendance is still quite variable, but generally OK. The two joint gentle duplicate sessions (joint with U3A Improvers) were very popular, and more will be arranged - see item 8.
ACTION Malcolm.

- v. Over the summer, when the lessons have been paused, the Thursday morning session will be opened to players from U3A, until the new term starts in September. The charge will be £2 per person, collected in the normal cashless way from Club members, and in cash from U3A players, all proceeds going towards WBC to cover the room hire. (Note- we have previously decided that the session charge on Thursday mornings will increase to £3, in line with all our other sessions).
- vi. Thursday afternoon/evening sessions: work in progress. In March we are trialing a relaxed duplicate pairs session on every other Thursday evening. These need promoting. We discussed a booking system, such as used by Deva, so members could be sure a session was actually viable before attending on the night.

ACTION Jim (This has now been implemented on the WBC website, after the meeting).
- vii. Thursday afternoons: also trials are under way in March, for once a month advanced teaching session, and once a month teaching tables session, on the two Thursday afternoons when there is no duplicate pairs session in the evening.
- viii. All Thursday sessions are clearly advertised on the website, and in the calendar. We will take stock again at our next meeting to review how well/poorly these have gone.
- ix. The possibility of a WhatsApp group for Thursdays was also mentioned.

5 Membership Update

- a) Now that 2022 subscriptions are complete, and we know who is continuing their membership, we know our current numbers: 52 Full Members, 36 New Player Members, and 22 On-line Members.
- b) Membership categories: as discussed last time.
- c) Alford Hall membership: we will pay an "average" fee of £5 a head, ie just pass through to Alford Hall the £5 Alford fee included in our annual subscriptions (except On-line members, for whom Alford Hall membership does not apply). Jim has already produced a list of members names and addresses for Alford to use to produce individual membership cards, which will happen over the next few weeks. Alford Hall's year starts on 1st April.

6 Club Finances

- a) The Treasurer had completed the Income and Expenditure accounts for 2021, and this was shared at the meeting. The presentation was in two half years, because Helen had been Treasurer for the first half year, and Janet for the second half. We agreed that for the purposes of the AGM, and information to members, we should present the accounts in the usual way, ie for the full 12 month period.

ACTION Janet
- b) Janet has arranged to meet with our new auditor, Brian Drinkwater, on Monday 7th March, to go over the accounts.
- c) The accounts were healthy, and Janet reported that we have no issues of note. Our costs are being covered, and if anything our position is improving slightly.
- d) We agreed to purchase some extra sets of boards (plus cards and cases) for the dealing machine; this will for example remove the need for the very time-consuming manual dealing of the prepared hands for lessons. Quantity/ details to be discussed and agreed by Jim & Mike, but we are estimating at 4 new sets. We also agreed to support U3A with the purchase of new playing cards (~ 60 packs, in cardboard sleeves), as they would normally use their summer income to fund, and that income will now be going direct to WBC. **ACTION Jim/Mike** .

7 2022 AGM

- a) We agreed to hold it on-line on Zoom again this year, as we can expect a better attendance, and more time to address issues properly, than by holding it F2F before a Monday evening session. In order to allow the required time for preparation and notification, we revised the date to **Saturday 23rd April 2022, 1000am**. The agenda will be standard, as set out in the Club Constitution.
- b) Committee Membership
Both Angie and Helen said that they wish to stand down at the coming AGM. David also said he would be seeking to reduce his involvement going forward. Jim said he was willing to continue as Chairman, if required, for one further year; the Club should be looking to have a replacement in place, though he would be prepared to continue in some reduced role. We need new blood on the Committee. Various options were discussed and individuals will be approached.

8 Education

- a) Joint sessions with U3A Improvers: the joint Gentle Duplicate on 20th January and 24th February were well attended and well received. Malcolm Roberts will discuss with Andrew Young / David Simmers, to agree with Jim dates for future joint sessions. **ACTION Malcolm** We won't have one in April: Thursday 14th April is the day before Good Friday, and the Olive Tree at Penketh will be unavailable. So on that day all U3A people, beginners and Improvers alike, will be invited to come to Alford, and it will be a general play session, with no lesson. We will have beginners at one set of tables at one end of the room. The session charge will be £2 for all.

- b) Starting advanced classes and teaching tables-the first advanced class will be Thursday afternoon 10th March, and the first teaching tables session on Thursday afternoon 24th March, both run by Jim. We will gauge the level of interest and support to decide how to continue.

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AOB

None.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 7th May 2022, 0930 on Zoom.