

**Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 930am, on Zoom**

Present: Mike Dennis (chair), Jim Steele (secretary), Brigitte Massey, Carolyn Bailey, Malcolm Roberts, Janine Curwell.

**1 Apologies:** Janet Jagan, David Burrows

**2 Minutes of previous meeting** held Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023: accepted as a true record.  
There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.  
Mike commented that the AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> March had gone smoothly, with good preparation. Jim noted that the minutes are already posted on the website and the Club notice board.

**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. We remain in modest profit, most sessions making a small contribution. Friday evenings (RealBridge) are the most popular for Warrington members. Monday evenings (BBO) clash with F2F sessions for both Warrington and Brierfield. The meeting agreed we are generally OK with the current arrangements.

Jim commented that we had still not had a BWS Organizer's meeting since 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. We agreed to request a meeting. **ACTION Jim**

One topic for discussion will be whether to retain Monday evenings as BBO, or make a change.

Sessions to run over Easter (7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> April): Jim will check with David Tilley **ACTION Jim**

**4 F2F Activities/ Alford Hall**

- a. **Disabled parking spaces.** Action by Alford Hall has alleviated the problem somewhat.
- b. **Décor in bridge room (Festival Suite):** needs tactful discussion with Alford management on how we might help.
- c. **Setting up on Monday evenings:** we need more members to help with setting up and putting away afterwards. Mike will be proactive in getting a rota together, both short term (while Jim is away in the coming weeks) and for the longer term. **ACTION Mike**
- d. **Monday evening joint relaxed duplicate** for newer players to join in: there are 6 in the calendar for 2023, one of which was already held (27 Feb), and one last November. The Committee agreed the two so far have worked well, and we should continue.
  - i. We discussed which charity for the next one on 24 April, and suggested Warrington Women's Aid.
  - ii. The event needs to be advertised. **ACTION Jim** (though this will need doing by email while Jim is away, say in the preceding week).
  - iii. We discussed 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.
- e. **Thursday morning gentle duplicate sessions:** successful format, and we confirmed we will proceed as published in our calendar. Next one 13<sup>th</sup> April.
- f. **Club Socials:** we have three scheduled for the year. The first one on 6<sup>th</sup> March was not too well attended (5 ½ tables) despite the effort by Janine in organizing the food etc. However, the Committee agreed we should carry on, and try to improve the advertising/ awareness next time.

- g. **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 around 3 tables. We will not do any more Thursday afternoon advanced lessons until October at the earliest. For clarity, we confirmed the Thursday afternoon calendar arrangements ie no afternoon session on 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> April, and during the summer break from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**5. Membership update/ publicity**

- a. Review of membership: after “dormant members” clear out in January, we now have 110 members: 71 Full, 18 New Player, and 21 On-line. Membership is creeping up slowly but steadily.
- b. The main vehicle for publicity is the website. Last time it was noted that our Club details had been omitted in error from the Local Groups section of the latest edition of the freebie Essential Guide booklet, which is issued every two months and goes through letterboxes throughout the Warrington area. This has now been corrected.
- c. We discussed possibly having an advertising “sandwich board” to place outside the club on bridge days. We would need to discuss with Alford hall before taking any action. **ACTION Mike**

**6 Finances**

- a. Our financial position is sound, as displayed at the recent AGM. We expect increased charges from Alford Hall (last increased on 1/10/22) and increased EBU charges, but we can cope with this at current income levels.
- b. Additional Bridgemates: Mike has ordered 3 more, but we await them coming back into stock.
- c. Fees collection system: no change, as confirmed at the AGM.
- d. Gift for auditor: the Committee approved that we should provide a gift. Jim will check preferences with Brian Drinkwater, then purchase (eg bottle of whisky) and charge to the club account. **ACTION Jim**

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

The Committee confirmed the roles 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/ TDs, Scoring**

- a. TD training: as minuted last time.
- b. Scoring training: as minuted last time.
- c. Club Trophies: these have now all been located and retrieved. We need to arrange engraving of the two awarded on 6<sup>th</sup> March. **ACTION Mike**
- d. TD Rota: as minuted last time. In the absence of David we could not progress the discussion.

- e. **2023 Competitions:** we await comment from David, but in the meantime resolved as follows:
- I. Elizabeth Bennett memorial trophy: date changed at request of Carol Bingham to the Monday nearest Elizabeth's birthday; for 2023 this will be 3<sup>rd</sup> July. It will be an annual handicap duplicate pairs event (one winner movement). We will discuss the trophy with Carol. **ACTION Jim**
  - II. Teams (Jordan Vase): we confirmed this will be 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.
  - III. Monday Evening best average of the year: scratch and handicap pairs (ie 2 competitions). Need to specify a minimum number of appearances to qualify. We settled on 12.
  - IV. Friday evening on-line best average of the year: scratch and handicap, pairs (ie 2 competitions). Need to specify a minimum number of appearances to qualify. We agreed 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 need more support from WBC members, in particular to make up table numbers, 1030-12 noon. Committee members will help as personal circumstances allow, and we will strongly advocate on Monday evenings to seek volunteers for specific dates. **ACTION Mike**
- b. Cover when Jim is away Thursdays 23/3 to 20/4: all arranged, for Keith Perry and Mike to run the sessions. Malcolm Roberts will also be there on 6/4/ and 13/4, both joint sessions with u3a.
- c. Advanced lessons: see minute 4g above.

10. **AOB**

None.

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

This will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 0930. Could Committee members please put it in their diaries, and notify Jim if unavailable.

Jim Steele  
12/3/23