

Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting
Saturday 7th May 2022, 930am

Present: Jim Steele (chair), Mike Dennis (secretary), Janet Jagan (treasurer), David Burrows, Janine Curwell, Brigitte Massey, Malcolm Roberts.

1 Apologies: David Tilley

2 Minutes of previous meeting, held 5th March 2022: accepted as a true record. No matters arising not on today's agenda.

3 Welcome to new Committee members

Jim welcomed the new Committee members, and gave a short introduction of the activities of the Club, and how things had changed over the last three years. He asked them to think about ways they could help the Club, eg potential individual contributions, Committee roles, etc. Janine said she could get involved some Thursday mornings, personal commitments permitting, and Brigitte said she was going to be helping with the beginners class on Thursday mornings, from September, with Andrew Young; this will be helpful as Andrew needs support, as he's running the beginners class largely on his own, it will offer some extra continuity, and it will provide some experience of teaching for Brigitte.

4. BWS: On-line activities

- a. 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 are in modest profit each month; some sessions are loss-making for WBC, with few of our own members participating (especially Sunday mornings), while others do better (especially Friday evenings). The Committee was happy to carry on as we are, as it is to the benefit of all three Clubs, Brierfield, Warrington, and Stretford.
- b. We no longer run a BWS 10-high on a Monday afternoon, due to lack of demand. We are directing people to Adam Wiseberg's site, which offers relaxed RealBridge Duplicate on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Some of our members are taking advantage of that; however, we have no income or expenditure associated, as it is all dealt with direct by Adam. We do not publish the results on our website, though we could do if we chose. The Committee agreed to continue the current arrangement.
- c. Jim gave a brief summary of the outcome of a recent disciplinary matter, in which a member (from Stretford) was expelled from BWS . The Committee were reminded of the huge importance of creating a pleasant and enjoyable experience for all bridge players.

5. F2F Activities

- a. Alford Hall: there are still some aspects of the arrangements under review, eg disabled parking, where we are in discussion with Alford management. We will keep this under review and work through any issues. Jim outlined the current financial arrangement, whereby we pay £80 per week for Monday evening and two sessions on a Thursday. The Committee were content to continue as at present, in the expectation that there will be an increase in room rent in the autumn, due for example to the cost of heating. It was noted that as part of ongoing maintenance, the boiler serving our room has been repaired, and the operational control is now from is controlled from behind the bar. We will make sure we have good liaison with the staff to ensure it is switched on at the correct times.
- b. Monday evenings: we discussed measures to boost future attendances, which have been adversely affected by several factors over the last two years (as have almost all bridge clubs).

- c. Thursdays: Thursday morning teaching sessions are going well, though attendances have dropped away over recent weeks (as have U3A classes at Penketh). We will finish the current year at end June, and restart ca 15 September with a new group, moving up from U3A Improvers. It is hoped to gradually encourage some of these players to try Monday evenings, and /or whatever relaxed duplicate pairs sessions we manage to run on Thursday afternoons, come September.
- d. Thursday afternoon/ evening: we have tried various ideas, and not managed to get sufficient numbers to run a Thursday duplicate session. We now have two Thursday afternoon sessions a month, an advanced lesson on the 2nd Thursday and Teaching Tables on the 4th Thursday. We will carry on with this arrangement if there is sufficient support.
- e. Summer 2022: the arrangement is that U3A will not be providing a Thursday morning session at Penketh over the summer months. Everyone, WBC and U3A, will be able to attend an open session at Alford Hall; U3A will be charged £2 cash, collected on the day. WBC members will be charged £2 per session via our normal cashless system, but this will require us to maintain a register of attendance. It would be ideal if someone from WBC were delegated to attend each Thursday morning, to run the admin; we could also organize some more formal bridge (eg duplicate session) some weeks, if there were a demand.
- f. Joint Gentle Duplicate sessions on Thursday mornings are popular; our most recent, on 5th May, had 6 tables, despite a lot of holiday absence. Our next one is scheduled for 16th June.

6. Membership update.

- a. Jim gave an update of the various categories: we have 51 Full Members, 36 New Player Members, and 23 On-line members. We had already previously decided to put a time limit for New Players – they will no longer be eligible for New Player membership, and be asked to move up to Full Membership at the end of their first complete calendar year in the Club. That means that someone joining in September would have around 15 to 16 months maximum as a New Player Member.
- b. Charges and subscriptions for the various categories: already resolved at the last Committee meeting- there will be a change in September 2022, when the charge for Thursday morning will increase from £2 to £3, thus standardizing all session charges, whether F2F or on-line, at £3.

7. Finances

The Treasurer gave an update on the latest position, which was healthy. We had built up our surplus somewhat during lockdown, with extensive on-line activities, and now both F2F and on-line were broadly covering our costs with small margin. We expect our Alford Hall rent to increase in the autumn, because of eg energy costs, and Alford's need to maintain its viability.

There was some discussion of potential uses for our funds for the best benefit of members. We agreed the Secretary would check the costs of replacing the bidding box inserts (some are getting dog eared), and one further Jannersten case (out of stock when we bought our recent sets of new boards and cases).

It was also suggested we look at possible future maintenance/replacement costs of our most expensive items.

Action: Secretary, for the next meeting.

8. Club Competitions

These have been in abeyance for 3 years, because of the Covid hiatus. Jim suggested we should look to getting them up and running again. For illustration, he had set up four 2022 running competition tables on the website:

- Monday evening F2F scratch
- Monday evening F2F handicap
- Friday evening on-line scratch
- Friday evening on-line handicap.

There was discussion about what competitions we might run, and how to encourage participation, including New Player members. We agreed to give it some thought and discuss at the next meeting.

Action All

On **handicaps**, Jim had simply used the built-in Bridgewebs facility for handicaps based on a rolling 12 month average of the person's results. Dave Burrows said that we had our own handicap system in the past, run by Malcolm Strange, but he was not aware of how it was worked out. This will be checked out with Malcolm.

Action Jim

The Committee will then decide on what basis to operate handicaps.

We did not have a handle on where all the Club trophies were. After the meeting, Jim located a prize-giving list from 2019, covering the 2018 year. This is appended to the minutes, and should help us find all the trophies.

9. Education /Teaching

The current Thursday morning class will finish in June. A new class will start in September, based on the same syllabus. The format will be reduced lesson length (~30 minutes) followed by play of prepared hands. Malcolm advised that we could get a dozen people or so moving up from U3A Improvers. We will continue with offering some Thursday morning Gentle Duplicate sessions, joint with U3A, as these are proving popular. The next is 16th June.

Advanced lessons once per month on a Thursday afternoon will continue to be offered if there is a demand. The next ones are 12th May, then 9th June.

10. AOB

DB asked about Left handed bidding boxes. We agreed the standard arrangement was four normal (Right handed) boxes per table, with a few left handed boxes in the cupboard for anyone to use as they wished

11. Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 2nd July 2022, 0930hrs, on Zoom.

Appendix

Warrington Bridge Club- Prize Winners 2018

Monday scratch pairs

Runners-up:	Cynthia Simpson and Geoff Fisher	53.69%
Winners:	Peter and Rita Jordan	57.65%

Monday handicap pairs

Runners-up:	Cynthia Simpson and Geoff Fisher	51.57%
Winners:	Linda Ince and Pat Morris	52.54%

Thursday scratch pairs

Runners-up:	Chris Perry and Malcom Strange	54.84%
Winners:	Keith Perry and Stuart Hunter	55.93%

Thursday handicap pairs

Runners-up:	Richard Gooch and Val Davies	50.28%
Winners:	Cynthia Simpson and Geoff Fisher	52.22%

Teams events

Monday handicap (Jordan vase)

Runners-up:	Gwyneth Parry, Jim Addison, Linda Ince, Pat Morris	63.9%
Winners:	Helen Miller, Anne Forsyth, Cynthia Simpson, Geoff Fisher	67.6%

Thursday handicap

Runners-up:	Gwyneth Parry, Warwick Sherwood, Angie Pinnington, Ray Nolan	63.5%
Winners:	Keith Perry, Stuart Hunter, Cynthia Simpson, Geoff Fisher	69.2%

Jim has the Jordan vase, retrieved from Anne Forsyth's house.
Other trophies should be with recipients above.