



# YORK BRIDGE CLUB

## Committee Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024: Minutes

### Present:

Robin Loft (RL) (Chair), Andrew Merrison (AM), Lynda Baker (LB), Ruth Mattingly-Turner (RM-T), Rose Townsend (RT), Mike Barnard (MB), Frances Smith (FS), Sally Gregory (SG) (Trustee), Bryan Boulter (BB) (Minutes Secretary)

### Apologies:

Judy Baines (JB)

### Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the Committee Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 had already been approved and are now on the Club website.

### Agenda Items

**1 New Committee Members:** **RL** welcomed the new Committee members Rose Townsend, Mike Barnard and Frances Smith. **SG** expressed appreciation to everyone present, on behalf of the Trustees, for volunteering to assist the Club. **SG** also took the opportunity to explain the different roles of the Trustees and the Committee:

- The *Trustees* are responsible for the strategic and outward facing objectives and responsibilities of the Club. The Trustees are also directors of the Limited Company, which forms part of the Club structure. The Trustees are also responsible to the Charity Commission in relation to the Club's charitable status and obligations.
- The *Committee* runs the day-to-day activities of the Club, in relation to the playing and teaching of Bridge. It operates within a delegated budget, allocated by the Trustees. The Committee is the interface with members although Committee members are able, when necessary, to call for assistance from the Trustees.

**2 Health and Safety:** there were no issues to report. **AM** said that, in accordance with the Club's safeguarding policy, he had notified Phil Godfrey (PG) (Club Safeguarding Officer) of an occasion when a second person was not present during a Club activity.

**3 IT Awareness/Club Resources:** **RL** said that **SG** has e-mail addresses and login codes to enable new Committee members to access and use the designated Club accounts. **MB** and **FS** said they were having issues getting logged on. **RL** will ensure that the necessary one to one assistance is given to resolve the issues.

**4 Guide to being a Committee Member:** there were no issues raised in relation to the Guide.



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**5 Upcoming Calendar Events:** **RL** said that there were no clashes in relation to upcoming events. **SG** will give **RL** the list of the new Yorkshire League dates, which had just been received.

**6 Swiss Pairs 13<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September:** **AM** said that the 6 months trial of Swiss has been a success so far, with positive feedback and good attendance. It was agreed that Swiss Pairs should continue. More TDs and Scorers will be needed to run the events. Committee members will encourage TDs and Scorers to support Swiss Pairs and point out that any additional training needed will be given.

Committee members will also encourage qualified TDs, who do not currently run ordinary Club sessions, to do so in order to spread the burden. **AM** is still monitoring the TD/Scorer rotas and plugging any gaps by looking for volunteers. This matter will be considered further at the next Committee Meeting.

**SG** said that the Trustees are keen to run a Teams of Four event on alternate Saturdays to the Swiss Pairs. This would provide good preparation for League Matches.

**7 High Visibility Cards:** **RL** said that the EBU has stopped the supply of cards designed for players with visual impairment. **RL** has taken this matter up with the EBU and will report back. Meanwhile, **RL** will speak to **PG**, who has a contact at the Swedish supplier of these cards, to try and resolve the issue of supply. It was agreed that the correct term for these cards is *Large Index* and this term will be used to label the card boxes in future.

**8 Yorkshire Day Event:** **RL** referred to the flyer for this event, which is approved. With regard to the provision of Yorkshire food **RL**, his wife Jeanette and **RM-T** will have a Zoom meeting soon to finalise the menu. A spare player will be needed and **RL** said that, if necessary, he will volunteer. Otherwise, all the other arrangements are in hand. **RL** said that the purpose of these social events is to integrate new members with the emphasis on fun and the social aspects of Bridge; all this in line with the Club's charitable aims.

**9 Yorkshire League Update:** **SG** reported that information about the Yorkshire League winter season has just come in. Last year the Club fielded 5 Teams, stratified according to experience and desire to compete. All members are encouraged to apply to take part and will be guaranteed at least one game. *Jonathan Sanders (JS (Competitions Secretary))* will soon be sending out an e-mail to advertise the programme and invite members to put their names forward for Team selection. **RL** will liaise with Team captains with regard to the provision of food for the home fixtures. **Note:** **JS** has now sent out the e-mail (4<sup>th</sup> July).

**10 Cleaning Provision:** **RL** said that there had been positive feedback with regard to the new cleaner Louiza. The cost is significantly more than previously and members should be encouraged to give feedback on the cleaning standard seen. With regard to the cleaning of the blue table cloths, **RL** and Jeanette cleaned some 20 last month and this amounted to two wash loads. Looking forward, we need to encourage two members to take on this task. It was agreed that the flyer in the kitchen asking for volunteers should be advertised further, including at Club sessions.



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**11 Festival of Bridge Update:** **AM** reported that *Mark Dunkley (Club Secretary)* will be arranging a drop-in Bridge session at a café in Acomb, with 10% of the café's takings going to Cancer Research. **AM** will be organising two taster sessions at the Club, on a Saturday and Sunday. **RL** and **AM** will be arranging an inter-Club Pairs Competition with all the proceeds going to Cancer Research. **SG** confirmed that the Trustees have agreed to make the Club facilities available, without charge, for these events, on the clear understanding that it will be members individually, rather than the Club itself, running them.

**12 Waddington Cup:** this prestigious event will take place at the Club on 14<sup>th</sup> July next and is likely to attract around 65 players from across the County. The catering will be provided by Tea on the Green.

**13 Plant Care:** assistance from members is required to look after the plants outside the Club. Committee members will look for volunteers to do this.

**14 Additional Evening Session:** after discussion, **RL** said that he and **JB** will be arranging a survey of members to find out what sessions members would like to have and would support.

**15 New Competition Proposals:** the proposals put forward by **JS** have been agreed. **SG** pointed out that the EBU Simultaneous Pairs event will incur a higher cost than other events. Members will be asked to pay more to cover this. **RL** will speak to **JS** with regard to the timing of the Simultaneous Pairs event.

**16 Teltscher Trials:** this is a national event run by the EBU to select England Team members. The Club is hoping to host one of the playing sessions for these trials in January 2025 and this would be a very prestigious event for the Club. The format would be nine tables with national level players and video link. It may be that the event could be broadcast on BBO. The event would provide a good opportunity for the more advanced players at the Club to come along and watch the experts play.

**17 Sound Dampening in Main Playing Room:** some members have raised the issue of not being able to hear properly due to excessive background noise. **SG** said that the Trustees are commissioning an expert report to decide what further action may be needed.

**18 Open Day Review:** it is the intention to link the next Open Day with the start of the new Teaching Programme in September and the Festival of Bridge.

**19 Bridgewebs and Pianola:** **SG** said that the interface between Bridgewebs and Pianola is being considered by the Trustees.



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**20 Refreshment Costs:** **RL** said that the allocated budget for this must be adhered to. Some action may be needed to limit what is being offered, with regard to the provision of biscuits.

**21 Succession Planning:** **RL** said that he will be standing down from the Committee next year but would still be willing to remain as Facilities Manager. He said that he is aware that there is a wide pool of talent within the membership, who might be willing to step up and offer their input. He also said that it would be helpful if one or more prospective candidates for Chairman could shadow him over the next few months to get a feel for what the role involves.

**22 Club Promises to Members:** **RL** asked the Committee to consult with members and bring at least one suggestion of what may be included in the agreed promises, to the next Committee Meeting.

**23 Role of Minutes Secretary:** **BB** explained that the Minutes Secretary is an officer of the Club and not a Committee Member or Trustee. He said that Draft Minutes are prepared within a few days of the meetings. They are then sent, in the case of Committee meetings, to **RL** and the Trustee present, for initial approval, before being circulated wider and placed on the Club website. In the case of Trustees Meetings, they are sent to **SG** and **RL** for initial approval before being circulated wider.

**AOB:** None.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024

The meeting closed at 6.45pm