



YORK BRIDGE CLUB

Club Committee Meeting Minutes – 06/06/25

Attendees: Robin Loft (RL), Judith Baines (JB) (trustee representative), Linda Kitchen (LK), Rose Townsend (RT), Andrew Merrison (AM), Lynda Baker (LB), Jonathan Sanders (JS) (Minutes)

1. Health & Safety matters: RL reported that the Fire Evacuation Procedure and the defibrillator has new pads.
2. Upcoming calendar events/Potential clashes: None Identified.
3. Upcoming competition review: JS presented proposals as distributed by email to committee. (Attached to bottom of these minutes). Committee approved proposals. JS stated that currently publicity is done ad hoc by committee members and it would be beneficial for the club if there was a single person responsible for publicity via FB, website and newsletters. Those present agreed. Suitable person needs to be identified.
4. Next Social Events: 12th - JS has purchased the prizes. Flyer has been produced and ready for distribution. Bastille day celebration - RL emphasised that there was a need for greater clarity of roles for the event. RL will discuss with Ruth. No further discussion possible as lead organiser not present
5. Paul Brereton's comments regarding Tuesday nights discussed. RL has sent a reply email and those present acknowledged that strategies need to be identified to improve attendance. This needs to be discussed further at next committee meeting.
6. How committee will proceed and what targets it will set. It was felt that this would be informed by the trustee's strategy document that has yet to be published
7. Next date for CC meeting Monday 7th July @ 5.00pm

Competitions Review and Proposed Changes

Aside from within the review, I only received feedback from Sally, which makes it hard to evaluate what's working and what isn't. However, the following areas of improvement have been identified:

1. There is a general lack of engagement in the ongoing competitions, which is possibly due to low visibility and promotion
2. The Monday night competition leaderboard shows both eligible and ineligible players, and the ineligible players top the leaderboard, so those that could possibly win are not visible near the top of the leaderboard, which is likely to reduce interest
3. The addition of the Handicap Tuesday night competitions has added little and there is little interest in it.
4. The teams' handicap formula excessively disadvantages strong teams and vice versa. It is hard for strong teams to win as a result

Proposals:

1. Increase promotion of the competitions to improve engagement using the club website, facebook, club newsletter and the noticeboard.
 - Put leaderboard tables on the noticeboard
 - Make regular Facebook posts about who is leading etc, and celebrate winners. Use the club website for this too
 - Have a regular feature in the newsletter on progress of competitions
 - Publicise the successes of lower ranked players as much as possible
2. The way Bridgewebs displays the Monday night competition can't be changed, so this issue could be addressed by regular FB posts and a paper copy of the leaderboard that excludes ineligible players placed on the noticeboard.
3. Remove the handicap versions of the 2 Tuesday night competitions
4. We are currently using the formula recommended by the EBU for the Teams' handicap competition, but I'm getting advice from the EBU on other options, and on the basis of this I might change it for next year's competition. It doesn't make sense to change it mid-competition

Trophy giving:

Sally felt that not having a dedicated trophy award event devalues them and implies the club attaches little importance to the winners. It would be a committee decision on whether to have an event for this.

Publicity and promotion:

At present there is an adhoc system for ensuring competition winners are publicised and congratulated via the newsletter, website or facebook. We all felt that it would be better if there was a dedicated person to whom all requests for publicity for club matters went to and who ensured it was published through the relevant media. Is this something the committee can consider?