

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held Wednesday 11th December 2019

Present: Alan Evans (Chair), Bridget Johnson, Jane Chapman, Chris Frew, Laurie Barth, Jan Duncan, Jen Challoner.

Apologies: Bill Ashford

1 Minutes of 16th October meeting

The minutes were approved.

2 Actions arising from 16th October meeting.

2.1 Sim Pairs charitable event. Bridget is to organise. Diaried for 11th March 2020.

2.2 Replacing grubby card decks. Not all decks get equally grubby; sets with the higher board numbers are often unplayed. So we will continue with ad hoc replacement.

2.3 Stairlift. Irene's request for an extra charge point at ground level is noted, but the single charge point is by design. GHS do not want a resting position for the stairlift at the bottom of the stairs, where it is in danger of being snagged by cricketing and other traffic.

3 New/Major Business items

3.1 Report on latest transactions with the GHS Trustees

Alan reported that the GHS Trustees had just notified him that they rejected both our offers of increased rental under a new Lease Agreement, and had resolved to terminate that Lease Agreement, giving us six months' notice to quit.

This news rendered consideration of the 'November Trial', during which we manned the bar, pointless.

There was general sadness that what we had considered to be a 'partnership', evidenced by our gift of a stairlift to the GHS refurbishment project, and our running of the tea stall at each PITP, now appears at odds with the GHS Trustees view that the relationship is simply commercial.

We resolved to set up a Search Committee and structure to systematically consider other venues and options. We **actioned the Treasurer** to estimate the maximum rental we can afford for new premises. We resolved that we would commit our capital reserves to refurbish new premises and re-equip ourselves if necessary.

This matter is of such consequence that we need to involve all members in its resolution.

Chris circulated a draft announcement to all members, which was agreed in principle.

Action: Alan to use as a basis for a general email to all members.

Several venue options were suggested, which will be put into the mix.

3.2 Alternative Venues

Henleaze Bowling Club's email of 11th November, and AGM of 19th November, warrant another contact to see if their thinking has evolved. **Action: Chris**

3.3 Christmas Parties

Jen reported that our Christmas parties, to be held at Henleaze Bowling Club on the afternoon of Thursday 12th December (for Thursday Improvers) and Saturday 21st December evening (for the whole Club), are fully booked. Both will feature a new play written by Laurie. Jen distributed a programme showing all food, tickets and pricing, volunteers, raffle tickets and prizes, etc are all under control. Helpers to arrive at 6:00 pm on the Saturday.

- 4 Review calendar dates of upcoming competitions, etc
Jan is sorting out the Garden Cities competition entries for January.
Burns' Night is 29th January.
The AGM will be 13th or 20th May; **Action: Jan** to say which she prefers.
- 5 Any Other Business, including Members' reports
- 5.1 Christmas/New Year closure. We will not hold the sessions due on Monday 23rd afternoon,
Wednesday 25th or Thursday 26th. Otherwise, open for business as usual.
- 5.2 Membership Subs, etc. Due to be discussed at our next meeting. **Action: Bill and Bridget** to
list and make recommendations.
- 6 Date of Next Meeting:
Wednesday 19th February, **6:00 pm**, at GHS.

Agreed

Date