

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held Wednesday 18th July 2018

Present: Alan Williams (Chair), Alan Evans, Chris Frew, Vicki Lucas.

Apologies: Bill Ashford, Jen Challoner, Bernice Horseman, Jan Duncan

1 Minutes of 21st March meeting
Approved and signed

2 Actions arising. Most actions arising from the 21st March Committee meeting, 16th May AGM, and 14th June Committee gathering, are included in New/Major Business items below. Other actions:

- 2.1 (from March Committee) Bill to clarify which EBU courses he has attended/plans to attend. Carried forward.
- 2.2 (from AGM) Jane Chapman wants a secure bike rack. AE has approached GHS. In progress.
- 2.3 (from AGM) Tom Nolan asked where recent minutes were.
We agreed a procedural change: we will now post provisional minutes to the noticeboard and website. After a technical glitch, all minutes and the revised Constitution are now in Dropbox and on the website.
- 2.4 (from AGM) Move to a 7:15 start? AW has written to all members about changing to a 7:15 start. Of those responding, 100% were in favour. We agreed to start from Monday 3rd September, subject to: (i) GHS agreement (**Action: AE**) and (ii) Gareth's agreement re Fridays (**Action: AW**). A Newsletter and regular announcements will be needed beforehand.
- 2.5 (from June gathering) AW to investigate how Licensing Laws apply when we provide free booze (as on Burns Night). Provisionally, it appears we should not do it, but AW investigation continues. (**Action: AW**).

3 New/Major Business items

- 3.1 GHS clubhouse refurbishment: GHS progress An action on AW, to update all members re progress and our contingency planning, was completed via a Newsletter. An action on Alan to pick Irene's brains re any grant-giving bodies who might subsidise a stairlift, is carried forward. (**Action: AW**).
As to GHS trustees progress in choosing a firm to work on the refurbishment, we have heard nothing and there appears to be no progress.
- 3.2 GHS clubhouse refurbishment: WOE's relocation preparations. We confirmed that we will hire a 'man with a van' for 1st October and part of the prior weekend, to effect our relocation to Henleaze Bowling Club. **Action: CF**.
- 3.3 WOE's relocation preparations: contingency planning
A Search Subcommittee comprising Chris, Vicki, Jan and Bernice was agreed in June. Chris has circulated relevant plans from the previous search eight years ago. Vicki has investigated the Civil Service Sports Club, which would be suitable, but they have 'inescapable' commitments on Monday and Friday evenings which appear to rule

them out.

Vicki is also investigating St Theresa's church, which has had a change of leadership since our last search, and now welcomes local groups; and Friendly Bridge already have a session there. There is now a social club and bar. **Action: Vicki**, to develop this contact.

BAWA has previously been ruled out because of the hire charges for afternoons. However Vicki is investigating whether her MoD contacts might moderate this cost.

More generally, the Search Subcommittee now needs to get going.

- 3.4 GHS clubhouse refurbishment: WOE's matching refurbishment:
AE has investigated scoring with a tablet, as used by Bristol BC and Friendly Bridge. Having seen it in action, he recommends that it is not a big enough technological jump to make it worthwhile replacing our BridgeMate IIs. AE also reported that Nailsea Bridge Club is adopting BridgeTab UK software; he will monitor its effectiveness. AE reflected that big Congresses still use BridgeMates.
Further discussion concluded that AW should take our computer home sometime; to update the software and consider security backup against the possibility of it being stolen.
We concluded that BriAn is not relevant to us.
- 3.5 Wednesday prizes. Tom Nolan had proposed at AGM that Wednesday quarterly prizes should be on a handicapped basis, like Mondays. Discussion noted that, currently, Monday evenings have a quarterly prize after handicap, and an annual prize before handicap (the Monday League Championship). By contrast Wednesday evenings have a quarterly prize before handicap, and an annual prize after handicap (the Lilian Skinner Cup). Committee concluded that this symmetry should not be disturbed.
- 3.6 Wednesday numbers (action from AGM) rather than a formal survey of Thursday afternoon attenders, asking why they have not tried Wednesday evenings, we now felt that informal promotion of Wednesdays at Thursday afternoon sessions, would be better. **Action: Jen**
We reminisced about how good Lilian Skinner had been at boosting numbers by working as a partner finding service. Vicki said that Lynne Webley would be brilliant at that, if she could be persuaded. **Action: Vicki** to ask, noting next item...
- 3.7 Monday afternoons David Jones has asked us to consider Paul Brown's emailed ideas for boosting numbers.
 - 3.7.1 Partner finding. Paul volunteers to do partner finding, and be a spare player if necessary. Both would be very helpful.
Vicki said that we should be prepared to spend money on leafleting locally; Chris favoured a targeted approach, to local clubs – bowls clubs, Bristol Croquet Club – who play bridge as a sideline. Agreed we should all contribute our ideas to the next Committee meeting. **Action: all.**
 - 3.7.2 Format. As Paul suggests, we will ask David to go to Pairs scoring for a while when they restart in September, even though the result is more random than Teams scoring. **Action: AW**
 - 3.7.3 Who will respond to Paul? We failed to discuss.

3.8 Review calendar dates for upcoming competitions
Jan can now schedule the Moorstone Cup, the Pairs and the Individual championships.
Action: Jan

3.9 Any Other Business, including Members' reports

3.9.1 Membership Form. **Action: Chris** to pick up the redesign.

3.9.2 Xmas Parties. We need to fix dates. **Action: Jen**

3.9.3 Vicki proposed an additional Fun Night for a Wednesday evening; which she is prepared to organise. Food for (full Committee) thought.

3.9.4 A vote of thanks to Jen for another brilliant Bastille Night. Vicki thought that the West of England Wandering Minstrels should become an institution, and broadened to include other would-be thespians.

3.9.5 We agreed a website link to the West of England Congress.

4 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 5th September, **6:00 pm** in the GHS clubhouse

Agreed

Date