

## West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

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

Apologies: Jane Chapman

1 Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> May meeting

The minutes were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

2 Actions arising from 1<sup>st</sup> May meeting. None outstanding.

3 Actions arising from the AGM, 15<sup>th</sup> May: none.

4 New/Major Business items

4.1 Report on Meeting with GHS Trustees 18<sup>th</sup> June:

GHS trustees had asked for a meeting to discuss a new Lease Agreement. They are unhappy about the untimed nature of the existing contract, the stackability of the existing tables and the quantum we pay as rent, particularly for those (evening) sessions when the bar is manned. At the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June, Mark Steer and Keith Milsom represented GHS; Alan, Bill and Chris represented WoEBC.

Alan now reported that the meeting took 45 minutes, during which both sides presented their perspectives. The meeting was amicable. We accepted the principle of a fixed-term lease, replacement of the tables (at GHS expense) and differential charge rates for manned/unmanned bar sessions. There was no agreement on the quantum of hire charges; GHS' initial suggestion would inevitably cause us to lose large amounts every year, and Bill advised that we would eat through our entire reserves in five years. We made a counter-offer, which Keith and Mark will take to the next GHS Trustees meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Chris also asked that a number of subsidiary points in the existing Lease Agreement (car parking, bar pricing etc) be carried forward in any new Agreement. To be continued.

**Action: Jen** to ask Bob Quant if Henleaze Bridge Club have been asked for a corresponding rent increase.

Laurie mused on whether we could run the bar somehow. GHS existing arrangement uses a computerised till linked to a stock control system, which is not amenable to 'casual' use by us. However, Laurie suggested, were we to be allocated dedicated fridge space, we could run an 'honesty' bar ourselves with our own stock, obviating the need for a GHS barman. We noted this idea for the next round of negotiations.

5 Review calendar dates of upcoming competitions

Bastille Night, on 24<sup>th</sup> July, is the next event. Jen summarised all the arrangements for selling tickets, acquiring provisions, and organising the evening. Forty tickets will be sold: the maximum number we can seat to eat at GHS.

6 Any Other Business, including Members' reports

6.1 Insurance claim. Bill reported on an incident on 20<sup>th</sup> May, when the metal shutters were damaged because they were lowered on to an open door. We have accepted liability; our insurance has covered the £1,000 repair cost and we will be left with an excess of £100.

6.2 Challenge Match versus Henleaze Bowling Club. Jen captained our team of four to a narrow victory. Jen described the difficulty of playing bridge alongside two Ladies bowling teams,

who were watched by a lot of spectators, enjoyed a sit-down meal, and patronised the bar until late.

- 6.3 Alternative venues. Chris reported no activity. Laurie asked about The Ardagh; **action Chris** to find out the latest state of play.
- 6.4 Membership Secretary report. Bridget has taken over from Bernice (and reports the same problems).
  - 6.4.1 We need to help David Jones with signing up regular Monday afternoon players as members; and implementing the £5 charge for guests. **Action: Alan** to speak with David.
  - 6.4.2 Bridget is looking at how/whether the Renewals feature of Pianola might be used.
- 6.5 Biscuits. There was an extended debate about who paid for biscuits and who ate them. Alan will act to prevent biscuit wars.
- 6.6 Competition after the AGM. We have a competition following the AGM to encourage attendance at the AGM. Sandra Cooper has asked for a spare player to be provided in support of that objective. However, if we continue to hold the Mixed Pairs Championship on that day we would need two spare players – one of each sex. **Action: Jan** to reflect on this conundrum and solve before the next AGM.
- 6.7 Quarterly Competitions. Chris proposed that the Monday and Wednesday evening Leagues, currently 12 weeks long, be made 12 or 13 weeks to give fixed quarterly end dates over the year. This was agreed. **Action: Chris** to implement.
- 6.8 Finishing time. Alan suggested that all Directors should unify about the time at which new boards should be started at evening sessions. This was agreed, and 10:35 was chosen. **Action: Alan** to tell all Directors.
- 6.9 Mobile Phone. Alan proposed that this is so little used, we should just cancel it. This was agreed.

7 Date of Next Meeting:  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. August, **6:00 pm**, at GHS.

Agreed .....

Date .....