

## West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held Wednesday 21st March 2018

Present: Alan Williams (Chair), Bernice Horseman, Alan Evans, Chris Frew, Jan Duncan, Vicki Lucas.

Apologies: Bill Ashford, Jen Challoner

### 1. Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> February meeting and actions arising:

- 1.1 Monday evening ‘dropouts’: **BH and JD** have worked through a long list of ‘dropouts’ and found that nearly all have a compelling reason, e.g. moved away, or died. Discussion with others revealed nothing that we can obviously fix. Few cited the scruffy premises, and few have defected to Gareth’s Friendly Bridge. The fundamental problem is our inability to match natural turnover with an equal number of new joiners, for which we have no solution.
- 1.2 **BA** was actioned to book himself on an EBU course on encouraging skills development and a TD course. We understand that Bill no longer sees merit in the former, but is booked on a TD Course in May. **Action: BA to clarify.**
- 1.3 Minute 2.2 – GHS clubhouse refurbishment: GHS progress. **AW** has asked GHS to take our input re new chairs and they have agreed to consult. In the meantime, the existing stock of chairs will be cleaned on 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- 1.4 Minute 2.3 – GHS clubhouse refurbishment: WOE’s relocation preparations: CF has investigated Henleaze Bowling Club. See Major Item below.
- 1.5 Minute 3.5 – Subscription Rates 2018 proposal (see minutes of 29-11 meeting). The change to our Constitution to abolish the ‘Daytime’ membership category has been drafted and circulated by CF.
- 1.6 Minute 2.7 – Expand Committee. CF drafted and circulated the necessary change to the Constitution.
- 1.7 Minute 2.8 - Preddy Cup, being held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Jan has secured Gareth’s agreement to direct.

### 2. New/Major Business items

- 2.1 GHS clubhouse refurbishment: GHS progress Alan Williams spoke to Keith Milsom, now the main contact, on Tuesday last week. GHS expect all quotes from rival tenderers to be in by next week. Keith confirmed that a stairlift was in the plan. An Acorn stairlift is preferred, also commended by Irene Robinson. Our WOE and GHS statuses preclude a charitable grant, we will ask Irene if she knows of any other grant-giving bodies we could tap up. **Action: AW**
- 2.2 GHS clubhouse refurbishment: WOE’s relocation preparations: All the Committee bar Jan have now seen Henleaze Bowling Club (HBC) and all agree it should be very satisfactory for a temporary relocation. We have agreed to relocate to HBC for all

October and November this year, giving GHS a flexible window in which to accommodate their refurbishment. Our HBC contact, Cedric Gunson, has relayed financial terms which are acceptable in principle.

2.3 GHS clubhouse refurbishment: WOE's matching refurbishment:

2.3.1 Alan Evans is cooler about the plans to upgrade our scoring equipment to the tablets used by Bristol and Friendly Bridge, because of concerns re battery charging. **Action:** AE to investigate further.

2.3.2 What is BRIAN?, asks Jan. Answer:

'BriAn is an electronic scoring system for the game of contract bridge. Using Android smartphones and iPhones, BriAn can support duplicates, tournaments and café bridge. BriAn can also function as a personal scoresheet for a tournament, or as a record for social game of rubber or Chicago bridge. Other than players' phones, no equipment is required to run a duplicate using BriAn: no club laptop, no PC, no transponder box. The app which players use to enter scores is available on iPhone and iPad as well as Android phones and tablets. The app is free for players to download.'

Its relevance to us needs further reflection. **Action: ?**

2.3.3 AW is in touch with GHS re Director's Cupboard replacement.

2.4 Director situation; still a shortage? OK for now was the conclusion. George has one more session, then Alan Evans and David Jones will share Monday evenings; Andrew Urbanski and Alan Evans will share Wednesday evenings; Gareth Evans will do all Friday evenings, with Alan Evans deputising if necessary. From June, Bill Ashford should be qualified.

2.5 Reposition Wednesdays? Gareth and Mary have transformed Fridays, and we need a corresponding champion for Wednesdays, to chivvy potential attenders and find partners. A rota for a 'spare player' was discussed, without conclusion. Further encouragement to Thursday afternoon players to 'step up' was agreed - **Action: Jen/Bill/Alan Evans?** – but Jan reminded us that many just don't like going out in the evening. In this context, Jan felt that a 7:15 start could be a minor encouragement and would prevent Directors having to hurry to a conclusion before our 11 pm finish. Alan Evans demurred; the journey in from Nailsea would be significantly worse if we had a 7:15 start. We agreed that Alan Williams would moot an earlier start from December in his next Newsletter and would seek members' opinions.

2.6 AGM 16<sup>th</sup> May: preparations. Chris wanted to know if all Committee members are prepared to stand again, and for their current positions. (They are.) Vicki Lucas confirmed that she would stand for Committee, in spite of what she has seen today. Chris will do the formal Calling Notice etc and organise nominations. At our next meeting we can discuss any catering arrangements. Alan Williams clarified his intent, and our agreement, regarding reduced annual subs for members from April. In the first full year of membership, full membership will cost

£5. The second and subsequent full years of membership will be £25, reduced to £20 if paid before May. All those who have been playing **only** on Monday or Thursday afternoons so far will, from 1<sup>st</sup> April, be regarded as being in their first full year of membership, regardless of how long they have actually been playing. From April 2019 all will pay £20/£25 for full membership for their second and subsequent full years, regardless of which sessions they attend.

- 2.7 Review calendar dates for upcoming competitions. Jan Duncan said that after the Preddy Cup, 6<sup>th</sup> April, the next event will be the Mixed Pairs Championship, to be played on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.
- 2.8 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Alan Williams said that these are coming into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May across the whole of the EU, and need to be addressed by all organisations large and small, including us. He has seen examples of the Privacy Notice which others have devised for their clientele, and will develop one for us. **Action: AW.** Vicky and Jan, who both sadly have to work for a living, emphasised that their organisations are taking this very seriously. Bernice, as Membership Secretary, holds the database of WOE members on her PC. The wisdom and practicality of encryption were discussed.

3 Any Other Business, including Members' reports

No matters of significance.

- 4 Date of Next Meeting:  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6:15 pm in the GHS clubhouse

Agreed .....

Date .....