

WALLINGFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting of Thursday 28th September, 2006 held at Wallingford Bridge Club

Present: Peter Baxter (Chairman), N. Gascoyne (Secretary),
J. Griffiths (Club Captain), L. Burwood-Smith, F. Glassborow, G. Weatherley.

1. Apologies for Absence

John Barton, Kate Gould, Richard Moor.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on July 13th were passed.

3. Matters Arising not Covered by the Agenda.

None.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report.

5. Treasurer's Report

The club is accruing money at a similar level as last year.

6. O.B.A. Report

The county has purchased some bridgemate wireless scoring systems. Two thirds of the cost was provided by the OBA and a third by the Oxford Bridge Club. It is envisaged their use will be in apportion to the cost. Geoff Nicholas is now the Wessex League Organiser.

7. Leagues & Teams

Chiltern League

The fixtures are now arranged. The Club Captain reported she had received a letter from the Chiltern League committee, commenting on negative remarks made by a Wallingford pair, on the number of boards played at a match. The rules of the Chiltern League state the number of boards played in a league match - either 20 or 24 – are agreed by both the home and away team captains. Players should be reminded to avoid making any rude comments on the number of boards played at a match.

P. Baxter will arrange for players to take part in the league.

Action: P Baxter to arrange for players to take part in the Chiltern League.

Wessex League

The dates are now arranged and a fixtures calendar has been posted on the notice board. It has been difficult arranging fixtures, with some matches having to be played on club nights. The Club Captain explained the difficulties with matches being pre-arranged prior to the Wessex League Fixtures meeting. All matches for the Chiltern League are arranged AT their fixtures meeting. Each team is told who they will be playing against, and given a set of fixed dates in which the match is to be played. This system works well. It is to be suggested to the Wessex League Committee to organise fixtures this way in the future.

Action: J. Griffiths to discuss the issue of fixed dates with G. Nicholas prior to the Wessex League Meeting at the next OBA meeting.

8. **New Members**

Doris Davies, William L.S. Wallace and Frances Pollitt had applied for membership. They were accepted and are welcomed to the Club.

9. **Suggestions Book**

It was suggested that something more permanent is necessary to hold the car park gate open to prevent it hitting passing cars.

Action: P. Baxter to approach the Village Hall Committee for a post and latch to hold the gate open.

A member pointed out in the suggestion book that the shelf in the crockery cupboard is unstable. P. Baxter said the committee is aware of this and the Village Hall Committee's next project is to refit the kitchen when funds permit.

10. **Premises and status**

i. **Present**

L. Burwood-Smith reported the presence of mice in a kitchen drawer.

Action: P. Baxter will set some traps and put a notice on the drawer in question.

It has been agreed that the internal doors leading off the main hall, are to be shut once play begins and remain closed until the end of the evening. A notice will be placed on the doors directing players to access other areas through the kitchen.

The broken window is in hand. The glass is ready and will be fitted when P. Finbow and N. Gascoyne can arrange a mutually convenient time to fit it.

Winter Car Parking – We have lost a few spaces. Some members seem reluctant to park closely together. It may be possible to mark out parking bays with spray paint. A parking reminder will be put up on the notice board and appear in the next edition of Trumpit.

Action: G.W. to prepare a notice and include an item in the next edition of Trumpit.

ii. **Future**

The property sub-committee are still actively engaged in researching new premises. Recent properties they have viewed are:

Industrial Units at Hithercroft – car parking may be a problem.

Nuffield – journey similar to Roke.

Long Whittenham – Stables and 10 acres. Within the club's price range although they are not wide enough. They are also up a long track which is not desirable during the winter months.

Land in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell at Home Farm. Originally the owners were reluctant to let barns to the club as they didn't want traffic going past the houses at night.

N. Gascoyne will re-approach the owners and ask if it is possible to acquire a half acre of land before the houses.

Donkey Sanctuary - also at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. N. Gascoyne is in discussions with the owners regarding a possible joint venture.

L. Burwood-Smith brought to the committee's attention an article in the local paper, which reported that SODC had been approached to finance a land deal; £500,000 towards a new sports ground in Didcot. She pointed out that with a growing population, it would only be a matter of time before there is a bridge club in Didcot

and that it could be considered as a possible future location for Wallingford Bridge Club. She suggested we should write again to SODC stating that we would like to be considered when premises were being built or land was available.

Action: N. Gascoyne to write to the Recreational Officer at SODC.

Calendar

The calendars will be ready in a couple of weeks.

Calendar – dates

Simultaneous Pairs

The club will run the same 3 events; 2 BGB and Children in Need. A notice and an item for Trumpit will ask Wednesday / Friday players, if they would be interested in taking part in next year's OBA Sim Pairs at the Club on a Monday night. This would be in a separate section to the Monday players and give all members the opportunity to take part in the event at their local club.

Action: G. Weatherley to prepare an item for Trumpit and the notice board.

Charity Night

Bingo Bridge will be played at this year's event on Friday 20th October. It was agreed to postpone the auction until next year. Raffle tickets will now be sold at £1 each. J. Barton has 19 bottles of wine. The Charity night is for all members and Monday players will be invited to the evening.

Action: N. Gascoyne will organise the hands for Bingo Bridge. G. Weatherley to prepare nibbles for the evening, sell raffle tickets throughout the club, and discuss the charity evening with P. Welch.

Len and Ann Salmon Trophy

Wallingford is the host for this year's annual fixture against Abingdon. It will take place on Sunday 26th November. P. Baxter will confirm the hall booking. 32 boards will be played. Play will begin at 2pm and conclude around 7pm.

Action: G. Weatherley to organise catering for the afternoon.

Mixed Pairs

The event will revert to the 5th Wednesday next year.

Open Pairs – Remains on Wednesday and **Handicap Pairs** remains on Friday.

The **Open Individual** will be held on Wednesday and the **Handicap Individual** on Friday.

11. Christmas Parties (format)

Military bridge will be played on Monday and 'Play with the experts' will be played at the Wednesday/Friday party.

Action: F. Glassborow to organise the boards for 'Play with the experts.'
G. Weatherley to prepare notices for the parties and include information in Trumpit.

12. Any Other Business

Competition notice boards.

Action: N. Gascoyne will order the lettering for the boards. J. Griffiths will ask Lucy if she is able to update the boards.

Directing and Scoring

The club have lost Ian Kemp as a Director. A few more directors on the rota would be desirable. It is often difficult to hear the director at the beginning of the evening. An announcement will be made at 7.20 to ask players to be seated and remain quiet while the director makes any announcements.

No one should overrule the director's decision on scoring. In the event of a disagreement, an appeal should be made to the tournament sub-committee.

Teams Competition

It was agreed that in next year's Teams Competition, the team captains will be invited to collect their table number / team number from the director when all teams are seated. It was reported that there is a very slight difference in the results produced by the new scoring programme.

Website

L. Burwood-Smith drew attention to the fact that the Stammers had incurred costs connected with the website. F. Glassborow suggested the web-masters be paid notional back expenses of £100. It was also suggested to pay them £20 pa in notional expenses in line with the scorers. This was agreed by the committee.

Action: L. Burwood-Smith to obtain a cheque for R. & I Stammers.

F. Glassborow raised the issue of expenses and stated there should be an expenses claim form. It should be expected that club members make expenses claims even if they then donate their expenses to the club. He said that expenses claims should be presented at each committee meeting even if the payments are made less frequently.

Convention Cards.

The committee has received several complaints about the lack of use of convention cards.

Action: G.W. to prepare a notice and an item for Trumpit reminding members that if both players do not have identical convention cards, they will have to play a simple system. A Committee member / Director will make an announcement regarding the correct use convention cards.

Behaviour

It was noted that a few pairs continue to be rude to each other in spite of the recent distribution of the club's Code of Conduct. A reminder will be included in the next edition of Trumpit asking players to call the director immediately if they are affected by rude behaviour at the table.

The committee finally discussed the inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour of a pair not completing an evening. This has an adverse effect on all other players and spoils their enjoyment.

Action: P. Baxter to write to the pair concerned over their recent walk out.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

- 13. Date for next Committee Meeting: Thursday, 18th January.**
Please advise the secretary as soon as possible if you are unable to attend.