

WORTHING BRIDGE CLUB
Committee Meeting
Friday 22nd March 2024 at 10.00am
Byron Road
MINUTES

Present: Ernie Rivett, Robert Pepper, Eileen Perrigo, Alexa Baxter, Debbie Hildick-Smith, Nigel Utting, Chris Constable, Carol Pembrey, Sabina Surrey

1) Apologies for absence: None

2) Minutes of the meeting 26 January 2024 were approved.

3) Matters Arising:

- a) ER welcomed Carol and Sabina to the Committee.
- b) We have purchased a new teapot, floor mat and mugs.
- c) Monies raised in the charity week have been paid out to Worthing Food Bank, Worthing Soup Kitchen and WADARS.

4) Treasurer's Report (AB)

- a) AB presented the January and February accounts in the new format using software package sourced by RP. This has the benefit of reducing the number of spreadsheets the Treasurer manages.
- b) There is a deficit for the month of January due to large annual payments; e.g. insurance and security systems.
- c) The surplus from the Roy Skelton - £90 given to Parkinson's UK and £45 kept by the club.
- d) £4000 of Doris Strauss' legacy has been paid into our interest account and £1000 was used to cover the cost of the new fuse box required after our annual inspection and 5-year electrical system check.
- e) NU and AB will meet to discuss the price of wine and spirits in relation to profits made after recent jump in prices.

NU/AB

5) Membership Report (LS)

- a) In addition to our 2 new committee members present Jean Meneely volunteered to become the new membership secretary going forward. She will be supported by Carol who will cover for holidays and sickness. AB will meet with both and go over the role. Lynda kindly left a comprehensive job description. Both will need read only access to the NatWest account. **AB/CP/JM**
- b) CC proposed that we alter the current constitution to reduce the time members get to pay their annual subscription from end of March to the end January. We currently send notices out in December. This will need to be proposed at the next AGM. **CC**
- c) The following is the normal membership reporting and was provided by Lynda Smith on 14 March. The club wishes to extend a warm welcome to all new members:
 - I. There are 2 new members: Jenny Sortain and Linda Clark.
 - II. At 14 March there were 206 paid up members with 13 unpaid. 1 member will pay at the end of the month so the other 12 will be lapsed at 31 March leaving 194 members.
 - III. There are 15 members with their probation periods coming up between now and August.
 - IV. Deaths in the last 12 months were reported in the AGM minutes so notifications for the minutes will resume at the next meeting.

6) Fire Risk Update (ER)

- a) The report is over 30 pages long and is available in the electrical folder in the hallway.
- b) It requires the door into the main room downstairs to be kept closed as much as possible. It has a spring to auto-close it and should not really be kept hooked open.
- c) The door into the upstairs room needs upgrading to become a fire door. It was agreed a fire compliant door would be purchased and installed. SS agreed to pursue. **SS**
- d) The door to the fire escape upstairs and the downstairs rear exit need springs added.

7) EBU Festival of Bridge 9-15 September (NU)

- a) NU provided some information from the EBU website. This event is primarily to promote bridge as a game and all monies raised will go to their partner Cancer Research UK. NU queried if we wanted to take part as WBC's preference is to raise money for local charities and we already do a lot.
- b) It was agreed to link the EBU week to the action from the AGM at AOB c) and try and interest our own players in a 'fun' event such as a Pro-Am day which will be held under the EBU umbrella.
- c) We will host two separate Pro-Am events, one on Thursday afternoon 16 May during the Spring Festival and EP volunteered the Tuesday evening during the Festival of Bridge.
- d) AB to get list of all NGS grades for deciding an even split for who plays as Pro and who are Am then members can sign up in their category and names will be drawn on the day. **AB**
- e) Encouraging new members into the club was discussed; SS suggested everyone approaches their contacts who have played bridge or who currently play at home or other clubs and invite them to a Tuesday play session or Thursday afternoon.
- f) BBO: a number of members play the various BBO events on a regular basis. If these people are approached, could we get enough to play as a WBC session in the future?

8) Match with West Worthing (ER)

- a. This generated 8 full tables when last held. This will be held on the evening of 25th June. **ER**

9) 60's Club (NU)

- a) The rules state you must be a member of WBC to take part. If you resign, die or lapse the part year payment must be returned and the name removed from the draw. **NU/CC**

10) Spring Festival (ER)

- a) The competition lists are up with the exception of the new Pro-Am event as above.
- b) EP has the menu for Sunday 12th May and all the volunteers she needs for the catering. SS volunteered to make quiches. **EP**
- c) There are currently 3 tables of men's teams for the Friday evening but the ladies have been slower to sign up.
- d) AB will remind NU how to enter the criteria on the software for handicapped pairs (Thursday pm).

11) AOB

- a) We are eligible to install solar panels (suggested by SS at AGM). SS will now research grants and quotations. **SS**
- b) ER stated that Denise Ireland had approached him about joining us on the Committee. Welcome Denise, you are now on my list! **DHS**
- c) DHS said she would prepare a summary of how easyfundraising.co.uk works and what members need to do etc to discuss at the next meeting. **DHS**
- d) DHS and ER have been approached regarding nominations for Honorary Membership.

- e) ER stated that most of the objectives he set out when becoming Chairperson had been achieved and invited Committee members to consider what new objectives the club should set to guide the direction for the next 10 years. It is important to remember that with the current age profile in the club, we do need to have ideas on how we maintain membership numbers because if numbers dwindle to a certain point, there may not be enough income to sustain the club, given the overheads. **ALL**
- f) *Apologies I forgot to introduce this item at the meeting:* DHS would like to send out a message to all members requesting that they check their details on Pianola. Recent feedback to DHS about letters not going to the correct address and an incorrect Title being used (Mrs not Ms) have all been dealt with but it seems to be a trend. The initial details are copied from the membership forms into Pianola by the membership secretary and are likely to be correct, but over time some details may change. When we wish to contact people, we use what we have so it will be a reminder to update email and home addresses, contact telephone numbers etc. It's very straightforward to do but if they are not able to use Pianola, I will invite the changes so we are up to date. **DHS**
- g) DHS will send out approved minutes from this meeting to welcome Jean and Denise. **DHS**
- h) Nick has asked if he could buy the computer desk that is in the upstairs room. Please respond to Alexa with your thoughts. **AB**

**The date of the next meeting is:
Friday 10 May 10.00am at Byron Road.**