

Minutes of 264th Farnborough Bridge Club Committee Meeting

24th October 2023

1. Apologies for absence

Jo Lightfoot stood down last week so only Chairman Chris Clegg, Treasurer John Hunt and committee members Joan Chandler, Wendy Church and Rodney Meredith attended the meeting which began promptly at 1.30pm.

2. Minutes of the 263rd committee meeting had been distributed to all.

These were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Finance

CC confirmed that the club broke even last month, but the table money increase will help future finances and the 116 members who have paid their £12 annual subscription had improved cashflow.

JH confirmed that he had received the paperwork from HSBC to enable him to be added as a second signatory on the bank mandate and anticipated he would be approved in the next few weeks.

He and CC will meet on 1st November to produce the monthly invoices and accounts and then JH will be able to take over the full responsibilities of Treasurer.

5. Honorary Secretary

Following JL's resignation the committee discussed how it would find a replacement. In the short term, JH will deal with enquiries, many of which are financial, and his experience in business management will be useful. CC confirmed that Hilary Powell has volunteered to input membership additions/amendments on database, clean redundant data and make sure BridgeWebs has correct information for invoices and statements and mailings. The committee thanks her for helping at this important time.

RM is now responsible for competitions, matches, memberships and the host/director/scorer rotas.

6. Subcommittee

JC confirmed that the subcommittee, which includes herself, Christine Kempton, James Foster and Tony Urwin (John Hemington cannot attend due to work commitments), are meeting next week.

They will canvass members for their views on existing competitions, the constitution, communications and any other issues that need addressing.

7. Starting time

The committee received one complaint about the start time of 7.20pm from 1st November. After discussing it, it voted unanimously to proceed with the earlier time but agreed to review it next year when any effects have been monitored. Members should be seated by 7.15pm, hands cannot be started after 10.25pm and directors must be firm on the timings, which have been put on the notice board, posted on the website and announced at the club.

8. Christmas Party

WC confirmed that the **£20** fee will not cover the catering cost so a raffle will be needed to cover the shortfall. Phil Bailey is unable to direct so an alternative is required. Members will be allowed to bring their own drinks and glasses will be provided. RM kindly donated 4 bottles of fine wines as prizes and members are encouraged to do the same.

9. Competitions and Club Matches

RM confirmed that existing competitions will continue until August and that the website and notice board will show who the director/scorer/host will be. He reiterated that members are required to act as host and if they cannot fulfil their obligation, it is their responsibility to find a replacement. The ladder starting next month will require a new trophy, and JH agreed to source it, all the other trophies are now in the club's possession.

RM has organised the Haycocks Trophy match with Beckenham and many members are signed up to play, date to be confirmed, other matches are planned. The Larsky cup heats will be on November 22/24, December 8/10 and January 7/9, members scoring over 50%+ qualify for the semi-final which will be played at Farnborough on **Monday 19th January at 7.30pm** or Maidstone on February 1st and Tunbridge Wells on February 7th.

RM then proposed that, as so few clubs hold daytime sessions, we should start afternoon bridge to fill the gap. The committee debated it and agreed to trial it starting **Tuesday 16th January (1.30pm to 4.30pm)** until March. Sessions will be open to members, their guests and visitors, more to follow. If popular, Tuesday afternoon will then be added to Wednesday and Friday evenings on the club calendar.

10. AOB

There being no further business the meeting was closed and Wendy thanked for her scrumptious hospitality!

11. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 1.30pm members can email all questions/suggestions to c.clegg@btinternet.com.