

THE NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEE MEETING

Saturday 25th January 2020 at 4.45pm

Present:

Dave Treharne (Chairman) (DT) Mark Goddard (President) (MGo) P Gross (PG) Andrew Scott (AS) David Dunford (DD) Marc Gaudet (MGa) Sue Hollins (SH) Tony Ward (TW) Graham Brindley (GB) Pauline Payne (PP) Mel Shepherd (MS) Lois Wilson (LW)

1. Apologies for absence. An apology was received from Barbara Hatfield.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

It was proposed MS seconded PG that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record. Passed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

DT confirmed that the Dinah Mairs plaque is now located above the door to the main bridge room.

Car Park – PG reported no further response from the local council but that the unsafe pillar has been repaired and some clearing and cleaning up carried out by the council.

Back door - It was agreed to keep both locks on the back door fastened when the building is unoccupied.

Cullen Cup – handicaps have been updated and the competition is currently in progress.

Thursday Bridge and Brunch – DT confirmed that a schedule has been drawn up for the next 12 months for the event to take place on the second Thursday of each month.

EBU/Leakage – DT has had an e-mail from EBU which he has passed on to MGo – MGo to recontact EBU but no further action is anticipated from EBU.

Room hire – the proposed rates for room hire were agreed – AS is in contact with NCBA re outstanding rent still owed. Some money for 2018 has been received and he expects 2019 to be cleared shortly.

4. Secretary's Report

The club still does not have a permanent secretary and it was agreed to e-mail the full membership to try to find someone willing to do the job. PP said that she knows someone who may be willing to take on the role but this will be confirmed at a later date.

5. Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's Report

PG has passed detailed information on the accounts to DD who will liaise with the accountants to have final accounts prepared in time for the AGM. PG reported that there will be a loss of £11000 for the year 2019 The loss is due largely to the refurbishment of one of the flats at a cost of £12000 and the payment of £2500 in corporation tax for 2017. We will also not receive the final quarter's rent income from the flats in time for the accounts. (£4000) The refurbished flat is now let at a higher rent, all flats are currently occupied by reliable and stable tenants. PG will recommend that the annual subscription remain at £10.

On Membership, we have 233 members of whom over 70% have already re-joined for 2020

6 Player Development

DD expressed satisfaction at the attendance at the recent Player Development Workshop and thanked those Trustees who helped on the day.

Members discussed the recommendations contained in the paper which DD had circulated. In particular members were in favour of the idea of 'buddying' where an experience players teams up with a less experienced player to provide advice on both play and bridge etiquette. There were suggestions for a 'Buddy Friday' from time to time, perhaps drives with no master points at stake or even a non-EBU drive for buddying. DD to consider and implement where possible.

Further suggestions included:

- Running two parallel drives on a Friday
- An afternoon drive devoted to 'Buddying'

SH pointed out that it is an enormous leap from attending GB's 'Improvers' Drive' to actually playing in the Friday evening drive and there is a need for a further bridging mechanism to fill that void

DD suggested a possible additional evening drive to meet that particular need.

It was subsequently agreed to form a sub-committee to consider, recommend and implement some of the points raised in this discussion. Sub-committee members will be DD, LW, MGa , PP and SH.. MGo will also attend the first meeting.

PG requested confirmation that the club's teaching methods are standard ACOL and in line with EBU guidelines. AS confirmed this, with a few minor variations from EBU methods.

7 Room Hire

It was agreed that payment for room hire should be retrospective not in advance. AS requested that rooms booked more than 4 months ahead should require a 4 month notice of cancellation and any bookings made less than 4 months ahead be subject to full payment in the event of cancellation. TW to redraft the T and C document accordingly.

8 Best Behaviour

TW reported that he had a constructive conversation with the alleged victim of the offence reported at the last meeting. The person concerned requested no further action but was pleased to have had the discussion.

DT pointed to the need for 2 separate committees – The Conduct Committee to investigate any reported incident (already constituted) and a second committee to agree and implement any recommendations made. It was agreed that the Implementation Committee would consist of any 5 Trustees who are not members of the Conduct Committee.

9 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Sunday 15 March and notices will be placed on the Notice Board and on the Club web site. DT will not be seeking re-election as Chairman.

GB will retire as a Trustee at the AGM and the rest of the Trustees thanked him for his many years of service to the Club.

Nomination sheets for the various offices and for Trusteeship are now available and will be placed on the Club Notice Board.

10 Suggestions Book

-There were suggestions signed by several members for a reduction to 24 Boards, especially on Friday evenings. It was suggested that DD and his playing sub-committee should consider this. (NB – a recommendation for swifter action on this subject was subsequently circulated to all Trustees for consideration and earlier implementation).

-Suggestion for a rota of directors but it was considered that the present informal system works well with pre-planning and co-operation on both Tuesday and Friday evenings.

-A request for all members to see copies of minutes of Trustee meetings. It was agreed that the minutes of future meeting will be posted on both the Notice Board and the club web site.

11 Any Other Business

-PP will arrange for the various competition boards to be up dated with names of recent winners.

-PP said she felt the Friday host system is not working well. The same people act as hosts frequently and we are also often without a host. She suggested that Trustees should offer themselves as host wherever possible to set an example. All agreed to co-operate

-DD said that the West Club needs to be an official club within TNBC and affiliated to the EBU. PG agreed provided his members get free membership of TNBC for 2020 and then ` pay a membership fee from 2021. He will raise his table fee to £2.50 from 15 March onwards

-PG said the club has been offered a library of bridge book from the estate of Alan Macey. AS will arrange to collect.

-It was agreed to purchase 24 new green table cloths at a cost of around £500.

-In response to a question from DD it was agreed that NCBA will be given permission to install their trophy cabinet on our premises. The cabinet will cost around £700 to make and install. NCBA to be responsible for insuring it and its contents. The location of the cabinet and the possible relocation of the club's own cabinet to be discussed and agreed with NCBA.

11. Date and Time of next Meeting The next meeting- Saturday 4 April 2020 at 4.45pm.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 6.50 pm