

Minutes of Warrington Bridge Club Committee Meeting
Sat 7th June 2025, 0930hrs, on Zoom

1. **Apologies**
None
2. **Minutes of previous Committee meeting**, held 29th March 2025.
The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.
3. **On-Line Bridge**
 - a. **Friday evenings:**
 - i. BWS ceased to exist once Stretford withdrew, as of end March 2025. The Friday on-line session is now run by WBC. The Committee decided that we should continue it. We noted that it will sometimes operate at a small loss if the table numbers are low, but are not too concerned provided the session is itself viable, ie usually 5 tables or more.
 - ii. The players from Brierfield and Stretford who want to continue have joined Warrington BC. There are a couple from Brierfield who have not joined, and haven't played since end March, but Stretford are dealing with their unpaid playing fees.
 - iii. Fees for Adam Wiseberg (TD): this has not been sorted out yet, since the start of April. (4/4/25 being the first Friday session run by WBC). Janet will talk to Adam. **ACTION Janet**
 - b. **Tuesday evenings, joint with Antrobus:**
 - i. We want to keep supporting it and to encourage more players to join, though at present it is struggling for numbers. We felt that differentiating between Tuesdays and Fridays, with Tuesdays being a shorter session, would help, as we could then get some of our newer players to play. We would like to limit it to about a 915 finish. Mike Dennis will talk to Richard Clegg. **ACTION Mike**
 - c. **Publicity for on-line bridge:** we will try to attract more players to both Tuesday and Friday on-line sessions. Jim and Mike had had a conversation with County chair Mark Madeley about initiatives to get various clubs to join forces to run joint sessions, and therefore with more tables.
4. **Finances**
 - a. **Overview:** Janet said that our finances continue to be sound, and we have no concerns at present.
 - b. **Room hire:** we have now heard from Alford Hall that they are increasing our charges by £10/week. We had been anticipating the increase.
 - c. **Choice of charity:** we had already decided to continue supporting Walton Lea in 2025. It is a small local charity and our contribution makes a real difference. As already agreed, we are matching the table money to double up the contribution. We are considering which charity to support for 2026. Jim reported we had a suggestion from a member, Julie Evans, ie the Rape and Sexual Violence Support Centre, Cheshire and Merseyside (www.rapecentre.org.uk). Jim was asked to find more information, eg how the money is used, how we would pay. **ACTION Jim**
 - d. **Children in Need Charity SIM Pairs:** we agreed not to continue with this, because of the hassle of paying, the rake-off by the organisers ECATS, and contribution making little difference and being completely anonymous. We nevertheless value a SIM pairs once a year, and will seek other SIM pairs opportunities. Jim will talk to Keith. **ACTION Jim**
 - e. **Billing:** Now quarterly. We have carried out the first quarterly billing, for Jan/Feb/Mar 25. The next one will be in early July for Apr/May/Jun. **ACTION Jim/Carolyn.**
 - f. **Auditor:** Brian Drinkwater is happy to do this for one more year, ie 2025, but we will need to find a new auditor for 2026 onwards. We already have some suggested names of qualified people, to follow up.

5. Expenditure items

- a. **Completed items:** New laptop, signage outside Alford Hall, Tennis club banner (now terminated, but we have the banner as our property, as used at our prize giving evening), bridge tables, side tables: these have all been bought and paid for. We discussed getting more side tables but felt we had enough for now, for most sessions. We also now have procured more table cloths, and three more Bridgemates.
- b. More sets of **Jannersten boards with boxes:** we agreed to purchase one additional set, with metal box, and 32 boards. This will be enough if we have up to 16 tables at an Improvers/Charity night. Ian reported that the trial at Croft BC, using our pre-dealt boards with random hands, has been successful, and Croft BC has now voted to continue indefinitely. The Committee were pleased that this example of inter-club cooperation is working well. Croft BC has agreed to purchase one additional set, with their funds. Therefore we will buy two complete new sets of boxes and 32 boards, and cards. **ACTION Mike**
- g. **Bidding Boxes:** we had agreed to check what we have, and purchase enough bidding cards to replace the worn and tatty ones, and make them all complete. Jim has checked what we have, and we are OK for the moment. A set of 4 from Flemings costs £22. We should consider purchasing a few sets, later this year, as they do get worn and grubby after a while. .
- h. **Training for teachers:** this is a standing item. We will wait until we find a suitable course (venue, timing) for Ian, Jim and any others who are interested (eg Malcolm). The Club will fund the cost.

6. Publicity

- a. **Local GP surgeries/ Primary Care facilities (repeated from last time):** Andrew Young had already been going down this route for u3a, and had got to the stage of developing an A5 leaflet for “social prescribing” to be left with surgeries to give out. There is work to do to get the take-up to work. Mike said he would continue to see if there is mileage in following this up. **ACTION Mike.**
- b. **Essential Guide:** Ian confirmed that this is still working OK.
- c. **Advertorial (local press):** Jim did this, as agreed, following our Prize Awards evening. We had no feedback on whether this was published, or ignored.
- d. **Photo opportunity with Walton Lea:** (large cardboard cheque?) To be followed up. We agreed we would invite a representative to the club, on a Monday or a Thursday. **ACTION Mike**
- e. **Poster and flyers for new courses:** we need to update our publicity material for the new season of courses starting September 25. Jim was asked to produce ~20 A4 laminated posters, and ~100 A5 paper flyers. **ACTION Jim**
- f. **Warrington Scoop:** Ian has emailed them to see if we can get any publicity.
- g. **Other on-line resources:** There are various other on-line websites which we might want to explore, to see if we can get more publicity, eg What's On - Culture Warrington, <https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Warrington>, <https://wearewarringtonbid.co.uk/> **ACTION Ian**

7. Operations

- a. **Hosting for Charity/Improvers nights:** we need a clear nomination for who will be the host, and not play if we have an odd number of people turn up. Malcolm volunteered for 14th July. Carolyn said she was also willing to act as host when required.
- b. **Rota/cover for Mondays** when Jim and Mike are both away. Jim will continue to work with Mike so that Mondays when neither is available can be identified and covered. **ACTION Jim**
- c. **Updating the Strategy:** this is posted on the website here: https://www.bridgewebs.com/cgi-bin/bwop/bw.cgi?club=warrington&pid=display_page26 We agreed to look at this and consider how we should update it. Any suggested amendments should be sent to Mike. **ACTION All**

8. Succession/ Resilience planning (Standing agenda item)

- a. Dealing machine: we have just started with Roger Hesp doing this, and it is working well.
- b. Website (action from last time) : Ian is already a Bridgewebs webmaster for Birchwood & Croft. Jim and Ian will arrange a time to go over the WBC website pages, so that Ian is in a position to update the website if and when required. **ACTION Jim, Ian**
- c. Secretarial: Jim will be working with Carolyn to get her familiar with some of the secretarial duties, and share data bases. **ACTION Jim/ Carolyn**
- d. Social: though Janine can't attend much, Mike reported that she is happy to continue.
- e. Competitions secretary: this requires specialist expertise, and David Burrows is the only person we have with the knowledge and experience. We will discuss with Keith what help he can give us.
- f. need to consider how to address this, as David wishes to stand down.
- g. Teaching: we have recently had an approach from a prospective new member who is interested in helping with teaching. We will follow up. **ACTION Jim**

9. Education/Teaching

- a. **Training for bridge teaching (standing item)** Jim and Ian will continue to keep a look out for suitable training (venue, timing) **ACTION Jim/Ian**
- d. **TD training:** Adam Wiseberg has offered to run a course, over 4 dates. The proposed June dates were not convenient, so will be revised. There are some people who already do directing, eg at Antrobus or online, or who have done it before: Hilary, Jim, Mike, and Malcolm Strange. Some people at Croft might also want to join in. Ian confirmed they would have up to three. **ACTION Mike** to arrange with AW.

10. County (M&CBA)

Mark Madely, the County chairman, is inviting Clubs to nominate someone to attend meetings, on-line, up to 4 times per year. We agreed that Jim would be the WBC nominee. Jim will let Mark know. **ACTION Jim**

11. AOB

Mentoring less experienced players: Brenda suggested we should look at identifying players who might like to try playing on a Monday evening, if we offered an experienced player to partner them. We will look at identifying likely names. **ACTION All who are involved on Thursdays**

12. Date of Next Meeting

Provisionally agreed for Saturday 13th September 2025, 930am, on Zoom.
No date is suitable for everyone- Janet is unavailable on 13th September.