Minutes of Corsham Bridge Club Committee Meeting

26 February 2016

**Present**

Chris Baldock (chairman), Ray Elms, Janet Ladle and Sue Phillips

**Minutes of Previous meetings**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July and the subsequent e meeting were agreed and duly signed.

**Matters Arising**

* Chris is now a signatory on the club bank account.
* The clock is working really well.
* One uplighter has been purchases and tested. It was agreed Janet would purchase two short extension leads and 2 long extension leads so we are able to move the uplighter into a suitable position once we have more people playing. Purchase of additional uplighters will be considered once player numbers increase.
* Sue mentioned that the Legion has a free standing fan available for use.
* The tips were gratefully received and unexpected.

**Review of the party**

All agreed the dinner in January had been successful with people being generally happy with the food.

For next year the following points were agreed:

1. We will aim for a better seating arrangement to facilitate more flexible conversation – either round or large square tables if possible.
2. Possible venues – Methuen Arms Corsham, The Pheasant Chippenham (non carvery), La Flambe Sutton Benger , Quarryman’s Arms Box Hill.
3. Date Wednesday 25 January 2017.
4. Party will be free for regular club members.
5. Partners to be invited – they will pay the full cost if they are not regular club members

**Finance**

Janet provided an up to date financial statement showing the club’s finances are in a healthy position. To date the teaching has paid £400 net of costs into the club account. Expenses for Sue’s premises agreed at £10 pw. £140 to be paid for lessons to date. Balance of net monies from teaching will be fed into the club and shown, as now, separately in the club accounts.

**Teaching**

Current Students

The current lessons will be completed in April and students will be offered approximately 6 weeks of assisted play with the aim to prepare them to play at the club in June. It was agreed that during the assisted play period the following items will be covered:

1. The need to become members of the Legion and the cost of subs etc.
2. Club best behaviour
3. A convention card – they will be asked not to use notes when playing at the club.
4. The need not to worry if they get it wrong – we all do and we learn from it.
5. The role of the Director
6. The expectation that there will not be teaching at the table.
7. A move towards playing at 7 minutes per board.

The expectation is that current members of the club will be very welcoming to the current students as they will recognise the club needs new members to survive. They will be asked to be tolerant if the new members are slower than the experienced members and to accept that they may need to take an average some times while the new players get used to playing to the clock.

It was agreed the Legion is large enough to accommodate as many of the current students who wish to join. However if, in the future, we end up with 7 or more tables we will have to look at a larger venue.

Next Course

1. Another beginners course to commence in September 2016
2. Advertising to be by word of mouth and through the same advertising as the current course. Sue to explore the possibility of advertising on the Wiltshire Bridge website.
3. Venue to be in Corsham if possible.
4. Charge to remain at £5 but may need to be increased depending on premises cost.
5. Ideally 12 students.

2017

Topic based improvers lessons aimed at those currently learning, anybody else currently at the club who is interested, possibly the more advanced members of the 2016 course. Further details to be discussed nearer the time.

Ray mentioned he wishes to attend the EBU teacher training to achieve recognised teaching status. All agree this was a good idea. Chris to explore whether any free places are about to become available, the cost if they are not and the availability of courses.

**Advertising for New Members who currently play bridge**

Only low key advertising at present in view of the restriction on the number of tables we can accommodate at the Legion.

**Electronic Scoring**

Ray gave a demonstration of the tablet based electronic scoring which both he and Chris have used and think would be good for the club.

It was agreed:

1. We will take up the offer of the 30 day trial and will use this as a precursor of using the system permanently at the club unless there are strong objections to it.
2. Ray will purchase the license for 5 tables at approx. £30 and the required dongle for £37. Both Ray and Chris have routers they think will work.
3. For the trial period one of the committee will bring a lap top and players who own tablets will be asked to load the appropriate software and bring them with them.
4. Provided the trial is successful the committee will explore the need to purchase a lap top and a number of tablets.

**Competitions**

Dates for 2016 competitions

Eileen Harding Handicap 13 April

Robin Sutton Trophy 9 November

Marjory Cox Salver 3 August

To facilitate club competitions Sue agreed to add all of the new student details to the club base once Chris has shown her how. Chris will explore why the members who joined last year do not have averages for Corsham on the EBU.

It was agreed we will not enter any SIMs competitions until membership increases but will explore team competitions with Malmesbury, Box and possibly Chippenham this winter

Ray, as competition secretary, will announce forthcoming County events and encourage members to take part.

**Club Website**

It was agreed that the following items would be added to the website:

* Best behaviour guidance
* Minutes of committee meetings once they have been agreed by e mail
* Club application form. A membership charge of £1 per year will be levied in order to ensure we know who is a current member in the unlikely event of the club being wound up. A stock of application forms will be kept at the club.
* Ray will explore the cost to have a dedicated area for members on the website possibly using bridgeweb.

**Format for the evening**

When the current students join the club we will trial a fixed 10 minute drinks/comfort break half way through the evening.

Ray and Colin Ladle will be asked to formally act as Events Organisors, as they already do, in the absence of a Director. To facilitate this Ray borrowed Sue’s book on how to run a bridge event which covers the rules most likely to be needed on club nights.

It was agreed to encourage people to phone or e mail Sue or Ray when they are looking for a partner. This should help people to play when they do not have a partner and also encourage people to play with people other than their regular partners.

**Scoring**

Chris to teach Sue to use the scoring system for Corsham club so the club has an additional scorer.

**Date of Next meeting**

Provisional date for next meeting 27 May 5.00 at Sue’s

**Action Points**

1. Sue to explore the possibility of advertising on the Wiltshire Bridge website.
2. Chris to explore whether any free places are about to become available on the EBU teaching course, the cost if they are not and the availability of courses.
3. Ray will purchase the license for 5 tables at approx. £30 and the required dongle for £37. Both Ray and Chris have routers they think will work.
4. Ray, as competition secretary, will announce forthcoming County events and encourage members to take part.
5. Sue agreed to add all of the new student details to the club base once Chris has shown her how.
6. Chris will explore why the members who joined last year do not have averages for Corsham on the EBU.
7. Sue to provide a stock of application forms.
8. Chris to teach Sue how to score

Post meeting note from Ray

A BridgeWebs website includes a password-protected members area as standard.  The annual cost for us would be £35 (this is for an average of 1-7 tables per week) and if we grew bigger it would only increase to £40, up to 16 tables. We would probably also want to pay the additional annual Domain Name charge of £11.  This would allow us to have the site address of [corshambridgeclub.org.uk](http://corshambridgeclub.org.uk/). Otherwise our website address would be [www.bridgewebs.com/corsham](http://www.bridgewebs.com/malmesbury/); this is included in the £35 annual Bridgewebs charge.

Sue Phillips Club Secretary

Minutes approved ………………..