



**Minutes of Council Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club
Wednesday 19 April 2006**

Present:

Jon Downing (Chairman), Darren Evetts (Secretary), Pip Whitehouse, Stephanie Galvin, Colin Lang, Alan Pagett, John Robbins, Jane Hall, Myra Scott, Carolyn Fisher, Barry Holloway

1. Apologies

Leslie Reece (Treasurer), John Birch, John Pyner, Beryl Latham, Hylda Townsend, Mike Allen, Ann Bailey

2. Minutes of last meeting (080106)

With corrections made the minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

Dealt with in other points.

4. Treasurer's Report – Leslie Reece written report submitted

Unaudited accounts for the year show a small surplus of £51 subject to any last minute items arising. I will table a full report at the AGM and also at the next council meeting following the AGM.

Net subscription income is down by £160 on last year

WCBA competitions overall produced a similar net surplus to last year mainly thanks to WCBA Pairs Garden cities -£80 and midland circle -£90 produced the worst figures due to low entries. Green point event made £532 almost unchanged. IP surplus was much lower because increased level of TD fees had to be met out of unchanged income. We received £140 from the local heat of the event staged by Renault which may be a one-off windfall

Across the board admin costs were pretty similar.

EBU fees for representative events rose sharply as previously reported, However we had only 3 home Dawes matches this year; next year there will be 5 which will put up costs by about £250.

Taking into account the 50p increase in subs, the cost of extra county matches and general inflation and discounting the Renault windfall, I expect next year to be in the red by £200/£300

5. EBU Shareholders Report – Mike Allen

A written report is attached.

6. League Secretary's Report – Leslie Reece – written report submitted

- Divisions II and III are almost complete. Many outstanding matches in Division I, notably the Hackett team.

- Handicap – McBride team in final and awaiting a quarterfinal match in the other half.
- The matter of handicapping was deferred until the next meeting.

7. Tournament Secretary's Report – Pip Whitehouse

Warwickshire Pairs Final 050206 – Winners Norman Selwyn & David Franks, 2nd Janet Whittaker & John Hind, 3rd Nanette McWhirter & Alan Sant

Warwickshire Introductory Pairs 050206 – Winners Jean Miller & Pat Hack, 2nd Sue King & June Heather, 3rd Pam Wernick & Pru Knight.

Charity Swiss Teams 110206 – 13 Teams competed with Winners Mike Allen & Margaret Armstrong with Roger Bowles & Pip Whitehouse, 2nd Carolyn & Mike Fisher with Jane & Cyril Hall and third Stephanie & Bob Galvin with Sue Goldman & Dodo Georgevic. All were within 1VP of each other!

National Newcomers Pairs 260306 – Two Warwickshire pairs featured in the top rankings. Malcolm Green & Graham Cope finished 2nd locally and 6th nationally with Pru Knight & Pam Wernick 6th locally and 45 nationally.

Mixed Pairs Final 290306 – 26 pairs competed from various clubs across the County. Jolanta & Ray Coggle winners with Nanette McWhirter & Alan Sant 2nd.

Charity Simultaneous Pairs – Ten clubs ran heats this year, an increase on previous years, resulting in probably over 100 tables. It was suggested that we should avoid Easter and School holidays. This is not easy with so many other things in the calendar. It was agreed that we should publish an ending date and ask people to refrain from discussing the boards with people who have not played until after that date. It was noted that this was a Charity event and whilst security was a concern we should remember the aim if to raise money for St Mary's Hospice and have fun!

Goodman Cup – Finalists are the teams of Mike Leese & Adam Wood.

Foster Cups 070506 – 8 pairs will compete against pairs from Worcestershire and Staffordshire at West Midlands.

Pip reported that it was becoming increasingly more difficult to get responses from players.

The question was raised as to how much WCBA should pay towards the cost of entrance into the Corwen. This would be raised when the treasurer is present.

The question of the Invitation Pairs was discussed in some detail. It was agreed that the current format of the Invitation Pairs was not providing sufficient interest to players. It was agreed to explore alternative formats. It was also agreed that the Winners of the Premier would not be automatically selected to represent Warwickshire in the Tollemache.

8. Match/Selection Committee Report – John Robbins

In the Midlands Inter-Counties League Warwickshire finished 4th in the Dawes, 6th in the Porter and 6th in the Markham. In the Dawes 15 pairs played over the season with the most notable performances from Mike Allen and Roger Bryant. In the Porter 15 pairs played with Leslie Reece and Adrian Knight leading the field. In the Markham 17 pairs played with Paul Cotteril & Cyril Hall and Roy Moore & Alan Pagett providing the best performances.

The 2006-2007 season starts against Gloucester on Sunday 25 June at home (venue TBA) followed by Nottinghamshire on July 9 at Sutton.

The scoring analysis model is now operating as we wanted. Thanks to David Kenward for his support. John Pyner has a copy and will continue to work with John Robbins on producing the analysis. It was noted that the model's formulas should be protected against accidental deletion etc.

There are two county invitation events in the near future. The Beck Cup at Oxford and the Hereford Swiss Teams. We will be sending teams.

9. Secretary's Report – Darren Evetts

Calendar – The draft calendar had been circulated to clubs but one or two had not responded.

Programme – A sample programme was circulated.

Correspondence – None.

Website – Hits since May 2005 are approximately 8500

Midland Counties Congress – The MCC Committee have agreed that the 2007 and 2008 event will take place at the Bank House Hotel in Bransford, Worcestershire.

10. Newcomers Development Officer's Report – Myra Scott

Myra reported that she had been in contact with clubs and teachers and that there were successful sessions running at Coventry, Rugby, Sutton and West Midlands. There were many small private groups also running. Myra also reported that the mentoring scheme at Coventry was proving successful.

There will be a competition for players (who have played for less than two years) hosted by Sutton on Sunday 2 July. Next year this has been programmed for Sunday 24 June.

11. Green Point Event – Sunday 14 May 2005 – Sutton Coldfield Bridge Club

Currently 14 Teams registered.

11. AoB

The question of how Master Points were distributed was raised. It was noted that they are distributed to the home club. The question of whether we should use direct credit was raised and will be explored.

Council – 2006/7

All those present agreed to continue for the coming year. Colin Lang would take on the role of Vice-Chairman and Carolyn Fisher would be joining as a non-representative member if numbers allowed.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 June 2006 @ 7.00pm – West Midlands Bridge Club. Coffee available upon arrival.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE PROGRAMMED DATE OF 7 JUNE.

D Evetts – April 2006