**Minutes of the Huddersfield Bridge Club Committee Meeting held on 29 August 2023**

**Members Present**

Michael Robertson, Carrie Babington, Hazel Barker, David Ford, Liz Greensides, Sue Measures,

Margaret Rhodes, Katie Thorpe, Ian Whitehead and Pat Whitehouse. Michael welcomes Haxel to the committee.

**Apologies for Absence**

None

**Minutes of the previous Meetings**

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed by Michael Robertson

**Membership**

There are 174 Members

**Financial Update**

We have £52,500 in the bank.

**Any Other Business**

*Committee Tasks –* **Hazel** has volunteered to take care of Club maintenance and premises upkeep. **Katie** will handover.

*Premises Proposal* – The committee will look at the long-term suitability of Cambridge Road as a Bridge Club. It has been agreed that this will be done by **Katie** checking out available premises or land to purchase and considering the value of the current two buildings. She will come back with a proposal to the committee for a “more fit for purpose” bridge club. The relevant criteria for a more fit for purpose bridge club would be: - ample parking, ground floor playing rooms, near town centre, bridge club owned by members, toilets, kitchen, storage room, on a bus route, accessible entrance etc etc. Katie will try and accomplish this before Christmas and allow the committee to put a proposal which includes the best option(s) to members and trustees in 2024.

*Refurbishment –* The roof and flashings need looking at. **Sue** and **Pat** to look up previous invoices to see who we used before. **Michael** to arrange and include a gutter inspection.

*Charity Month –* Following a proposal by Alan Stevenson at the AGM regarding making a charity donation from the club, the committee agreed the following: We will test taking charity money with table money on a voluntary basis in November. During four weeks in November each week we will designate a different charity and members who wish to, can give money in excess of table money which will be collected for that week’s charity. Charitable cause suggestions are welcomed by all members.

*Teaching Update –* David Charlton is running improvers classes and Dallas Cliff (U3A) along with Carrie and Michael, Beginners Classes, both commencing in September. We have already had a few sign up.. Denis Murphy is also likely to run a card play course in early 2024. Thank you to all teachers who continue to give their time to sustain the future of Huddersfield Bridge Club by encouraging the playing of bridge.

*Internal Competitions –* This Autumn, we have decided to run the Wimpenny team of four competition. Date and details to follow.

*Tablet Update – W*e have a new laptop and tablets through a grant for some of the cost from YCBA. **David** and **Liz** with the help of Mike Woodward are currently commissioning and testing the equipment with a view to moving from the current bridgemates from the 1st Thursday in October.

*Teams Update –* **Carrie** has manged to secure enough commitment from members for Huddersfield to enter 4 teams in the Yorkshire Leage this season and will ask players to join team on a match-by-match basis based largely on both NGS rating and availability. Please enjoy playing for whichever team you are selected to represent. Huddersfield C team v Huddersfield D team will be rescheduled from October 8th due to players availability and this postponement was part of our conditions for entering 4 teams.

*Sit Outs –* There have been some comments about East/West always having to sit out. After a long discussion about the various merits of publicising in advance which direction would sit out should there be a half table and possibly rotating this on a monthly basis for example, it was decided after a vote to ask the last pair arriving at the Club for a session, to decide which way they wanted to sit for the first round. This was still felt to be the least disruptive to other members already sitting in their favourite orientation recognising some members either wish to or wish not to move. The TD may still need to ask you to move on occasion to allow a sensible movement and smooth nights play.

*Session Break –* Following a request by Mike Woodward it was again decided not to have a break in a session but for those members who wish a slightly more sociable element to their bridge session, it is pointed out that all members are welcome to come early and have a tea/coffee from 45 minutes before the play starts.

*Honours Boards –* We will leave them as they are for now due to cost and whether they are the best way to mark past achievements in the future but will bring the Wimpenny up to date due to the imminent recommencement of that competition. **Sue** to determine which names are missing from the current board.

*Website –* We are going ahead with moving to a new more modern Pianola website commencing the 1st October. **Liz** with **Katie** as deputy will keep it up to date. **Liz** to run sessions for all members who wish to attend about the Pianola system.

**Date of Next Meeting**

25th October 2023