**Aberystwyth Bridge Club**

**Extraordinary Committee meeting**

**Sunday 16th September 2018, 6.00pm**

Present: John Valentine, Roger Boyle, Alan Stein, Elenid Thomas, Jeff Thomas, Pamela Woodhouse

Apologies: Mair Jenkins

**Minutes**:

JV (President/ Chairman) prefaced discussion by reminding committee members that

* we have been honoured and trusted by the membership of the Aberystwyth BC whose sole purpose is to enjoy playing bridge.
* The committee has a collective responsibility. Once a decision has been made, each member must abide by the decision loyally.

The President brought three points for discussion:

1. *The Committee supports the principle outlined in the ABC constitution that the Management Committee shall be responsible for all the conduct of the business of the Club.*

All agreed.

1. *Anyone who does not fully support the principle of Committee responsibility should step down from the Committee.*

ET and JT indicated that JV had acted to the detriment of the club and had not upheld the Club’s constitution in respect of allowing a visitor to win the club’s mixed pairs competition.

JV and RB replied that this matter had been dealt with in the last committee meeting, that no-one [not even the person responsible for Membership] had pointed this out on the night, that the web site would be changed to say that visitors were welcome though were not eligible to enter club competitions, that JV had spoken to the visitor’s partner but the committee had agreed that the existing result would stand.

JV said that he considered the Treasurer writing to the Chairman and members of the Mid Wales BA committee a more serious matter.

JT expressed his opinion that in his eight years of being a committee member, the committee had been happier and more effective one than the committee chaired by JV. JV reminded him that ET had a few years ago tabled a document drawing attention to 12 ‘misdemeanours’ by the then President (Dylan Raw-Rees) and the then Vice-President (JV), including such things as JV had asked a question from the floor relating to the Annual Accounts. Neither ET or JT could remember this document.

[JV refrained from saying that in recent years the committee had let club competitions as outlined in the Constitution fall away and had decided to discontinue the popular Aberystwyth Congress without consulting the Club Membership, leading to complaints from the Membership.]

JV indicated that he was not censuring anyone, that the past was the past but such action should not happen again. He proposed an amendment to the item worded as ‘Everyone fully accepts the principle of Committee responsibility’ but this was not allowed.

No conclusion was reached.

1. T*he Committee recognises that the proposal to run a Mid -Wales simultaneous competition on a club night was brought to the ABC's attention and discussion on 1st May, on 8th July in committee, in a letter to members on 26th July, in reply to a letter dated 27 July from Elenid Thomas, and in the absence of a suitable date for a committee meeting in August or September by email of 30th July requesting ratification.*

JV indicated that he had given members a summary of communications on the proposal to run the Simultaneous Pairs as part of the Mid Wales Men’s and Ladies’ Pairs, which made clear that he did bring the matter to the club’s attention on several occasions.

This was not accepted by ET and JT.

RB said that downloading the hands and entering results was difficult. JV promised to feed back this to Alan Screen and Gill Howells.

JV indicated that he had agreed with ET that the MWBA Individual and Club competition (Bill Tink Trophy) were mutually exclusive and should not be played ‘together’. He quoted his reply to her letter of the 27th July as follows.

*‘I did not think that the Club has appetite for its own Individual but at the same time it would be a shame to not award the Bill Tink Trophy. Bill Tink’s son used to come along to the AGM to award this. We can defer the decision to a committee meeting but the chance to play for it at the Mid Wales event will have passed. I assume Elenid will run the competition and work out results’.*

He said it was difficult to further communicate on this matter given an embargo on email communications and obvious hostility from ET to himself and others that were making for a bad atmosphere in the club.

In response to a comment from JT that business should not be undertaken by email, AS agreed with JV that email could be a useful method of communication in between meetings.

JV thought that it was not going to be profitable to spend further time discussing this item. He proposed that we asked a lawyer, bank manager or a headmaster to look at all the documents and to independently adjudicate on this item. This proposal was not accepted.

No conclusion was reached.

AS proposed that a further meeting to discuss these matters be held. RB was asked to arrange a further meeting.

The meeting was closed at 18.32.