

Mid Leinster Bridge Region

Minutes of Secretaries Meetings 18th September 2009

Two meetings of the Secretaries of the Mid Leinster Bridge Region were held in Acol Bridge Centre, Maynooth on 18th Sept. 2009.

Attendance: Jim Egan, Barbara Burke, Bert McKay, Jim Murray, Ann Burns, Helen McDevitt, Neil Burke, Peter Barry, Fran Dignam, George Kearns, Nicholette Mc Mahon, Melita Gorman, Chris McHugh, Roisin O’Gorman, Eileen Harris, Katharine Cooney, Betty Coffey, Mary Murphy, Maureen Coyle, Nora O’Rourke, Anne Bolger, Renee Kelly, Deirdre Sweeney.

Apologies: Denis O’Shaughnessy, June Walsh, Zena Walsh, Mary Casey, Paddy McMahan, Evelyn Ward.

Constitution: The first meeting commenced at 7.30pm and was called to deal only with the proposed Constitution. Copies of the Draft Constitution were distributed at the AGM in June and subsequently posted to all clubs. It was also available on our website. A very short discussion took place. Neil Burke proposed adoption of the Constitution and Nicholette McMahan seconded it. It was unanimously accepted. The meeting adjourned.

Second Meeting: The second meeting commenced at 8.00pm. The Packs were distributed to the clubs present.

Introduction: Jim Egan, our President opened the meeting by welcoming everybody, especially Paul Porteous, the General Secretary of the CBAI. Jim again acknowledged that we had a very successful first year and that we are in existence to give a better service to the clubs in the Region. He thanked Neil, Bert and Barbara whose great experience from the Dublin North Region, kept us going.

General Secretary’s Address: Paul highly congratulated all the Officers on the Committee, especially those on the Kildare side, for taking on the project of setting up the new region. His address covered the following topics

- The **Fun Teams Event** which was held in Templeogue in June. This was a new event organized by the CBAI. They were very pleased with the success of the day. He congratulated us for having entered 3 teams.
- He praised us for getting the **Leagues** up and running and for
- The success of the **Master Classes**.
- He encouraged us to play in the **President’s Prize** which this year would be held close by in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Rd.
- To get our clubs to support the **Simultaneous Pairs**, as they are one of a very few ways of raising money for the organization.
- **Public Liability Insurance:** This topic generated a number of questions. Paul pointed out that all members should be affiliated, otherwise they will not be

covered. The issue of Visitors and being open over the Summer was also discussed.

Communications with Clubs: Ann, the Regional Secretary asked if all clubs could provide her with an email address. Even if no member on their committee used email, could they get one for any member who would then pass on the information? We would still send the important information by post but email was very useful for reminders and anything that comes up at the last minute.

Leagues: Neil and Bert outlined how the leagues would run this year. The application forms, etc were in the packs. Neil announced that we hoped to get some sponsorship from the Anglers Rest Restaurant and he encouraged all clubs to support the sponsors. The Masters would run on a given night each month in The Anglers Rest and all teams would come together to play. The A's and B's would all play together on the first night but arrange their own matches thereafter.

Novice Event and Class: Neil pointed out that we were going to run a Novice Event at the end of October. The event would be open to Novices and Bs who are in their first year. Participants would play a number of hands, followed by a class to be given by Tomas MacCormaic, one of the best teachers in the country.

Beginners: All clubs should welcome beginners. There is a difficulty sometimes that when people complete a set of lessons, they have no club to go to. When beginners do join a club, established members should help them along.

Website: The CBAI have offered to host websites for all the Regions. Ours is already up and running, thanks to Paul, Owen and Neil. We are open to any feedback.

Any Other Business: George asked about the queries that were raised at the AGM concerning finance, principally the amount of money given to the region by the CBAI. It was thought to be 2 euro per member of the region, but Neil explained that it was actually 1 euro per member but a region would get a minimum of 2000euro if they had lower than 2000 members.

A discussion followed on the affiliation fee, with the point being made that some members complain about having to pay it twice, etc if in 2 different clubs. Paul pointed out that a subcommittee had been set up to look at the issue.

Signed: _____