

Minutes of the Berwick Bridge Club Committee meeting held at 5pm Monday, 27 June 2022 online on Zoom

Present:	Peter Calder (PC)	President
	Paul Gipson (PG)	Honorary Secretary
	Tony Reed-Jones (TRJ)	Honorary Treasurer
	Louis Moore (LM)	Honorary Competitions Secretary
	Angela Hutchinson (AH)	Committee member
	Jean Mole (JM)	Committee member
	Linda Warcup (LW)	Committee member

Apologies: Penny Davidson, Chris Orchard, Reverend Canon Christopher Smith, Kitty Home Robertson

President's welcome

PC welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the new committee members, Linda and Angela.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

PCC update

The dialogue with the Parochial Parish Council has continued and they are currently investigating the cost and effectiveness of wall-mounted extraction fans. Gwyneth Guthrie said an electrician was supplying an estimate for ventilation work.

PG will write to Gwyneth Guthrie about the terms and conditions for using the Parish Centre.

Matters arising from AGM

Restarting bridge at the Parish Centre

First face-to-face meeting

The first club face-to-face meeting in over two years occurred last Thursday and there were four tables. LM reported some Bridgemate issues in the evening that he's been unable to reproduce and, hopefully, will not reoccur.

The club needs a backup for running the summer bridge events in case LM is unavailable. LW, CO and Stuart Breckons have volunteered and training will begin shortly.

Host system

The host system has been well supported and there are hosts for every Thursday over the summer.

Looking at alternative venues

PC and a number of committee members have visited the Swan Centre in Berwick and the Northern View Community Centre in Highcliffe as potential club venues.

The Swan Centre was universally liked as a new sports centre: it had a suitable meeting room but did not have appropriate tables and chairs. More importantly, it was very expensive compared to our current venue and parking is a potential issue that will only be addressed next year.

The Northern View Community Centre is an older venue that has potential. It is more expensive than our current venue but it has appropriate furniture, ventilation and storage space.

Looking at these two venues reinforced how appropriate the Parish Centre is for the club save for the ventilation issues. The committee is minded to remain at the Parish Centre while these issues are being addressed and is prepared to limit the number of tables to ensure a safe environment in the interim.

However the committee is concerned that the PCC has not progressed the issue over the last two years, so it will make a decision on the club location for the 2022-23 season at its next meeting on 25 July.

Balancing face-to-face and online bridge: membership survey report

Fifty-three responses were submitted, of which two were from households, so there are 55 responses considered. Some of the away club members did not feel it was their place to offer an opinion and, in fact, no away members submitted a response.

A [summary of the responses](#) was presented.

Bridge from September

Although many of the committee feel that the bridge club should remain, primarily, a face-to-face bridge club, the membership survey was firmly in favour of a mix of online and face-to-face bridge moving forward.

The committee decided that the 2022-23 season will be run on:

- Tuesday evenings on Bridge Base Online
- Thursday evenings face-to-face, at a location to be decided

PG was asked to prepare a draft calendar with the two principal events, the Royal Bank Cup and the Scott Cup, being run face-to-face.

PC and PG will liaise with Gwynneth Guthrie and the PCC and inform them of our decision. The committee sees this decision as one that will be reviewed at next year's AGM, or earlier if necessary, and hopes that we shall return to two face-to-face sessions in the future. The committee recognises that the future availability of, for example, the Parish Centre may be an issue after we've released one evening.

Celebrating the club's 50th anniversary

There were [many inventive ideas](#) from the membership, but there was general support for Christopher Smith's idea of combining it with the Christmas Party.

There was debate about an outdoor event but obvious concerns about the weather. It was noted that Paxton House has a permanent marquee and AH will inquire about the cost of using it, with the idea of running an event in late August or September on a weekday evening.

AOCB

Former member Mary Birtwistle will be 100 this week: PC will arrange flowers and a card.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm.

The next meeting will be on 25 July, 2022 at 5pm on Zoom. It is intended to finalise the location and calendar at this meeting.

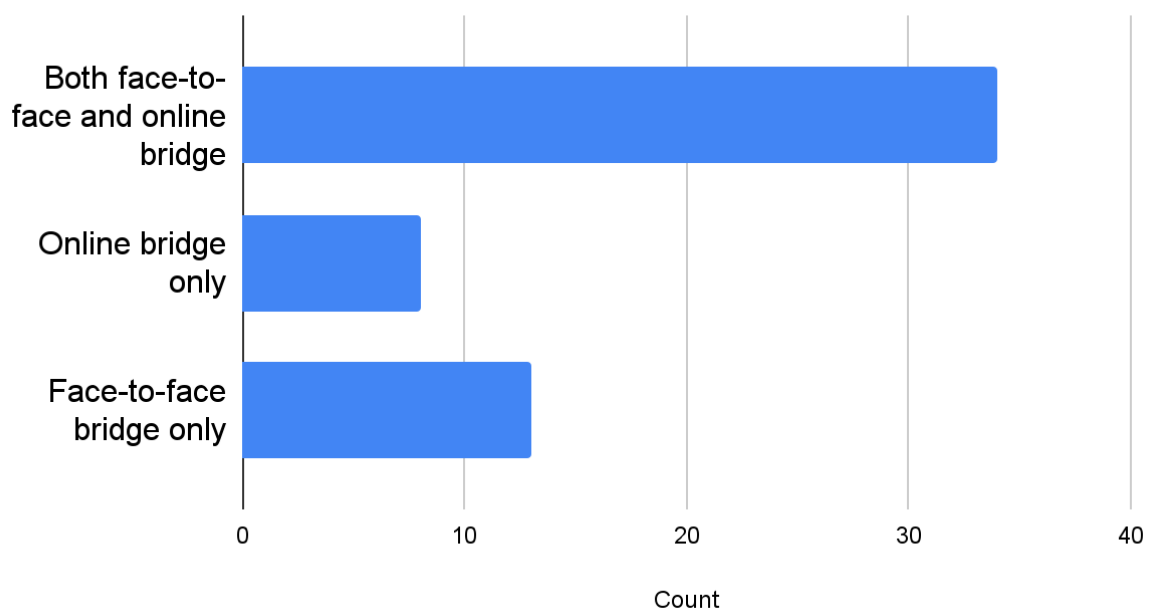
Membership survey summary

Fifty-three responses were submitted, of which two were from households, so there are 55 responses considered. For those who are only interested in playing online bridge, their responses are not counted for the face-to-face options, explaining why the number of responses for each question differs.

Some of the away club members did not feel it was their place to offer an opinion and, in fact, no away members submitted a response.

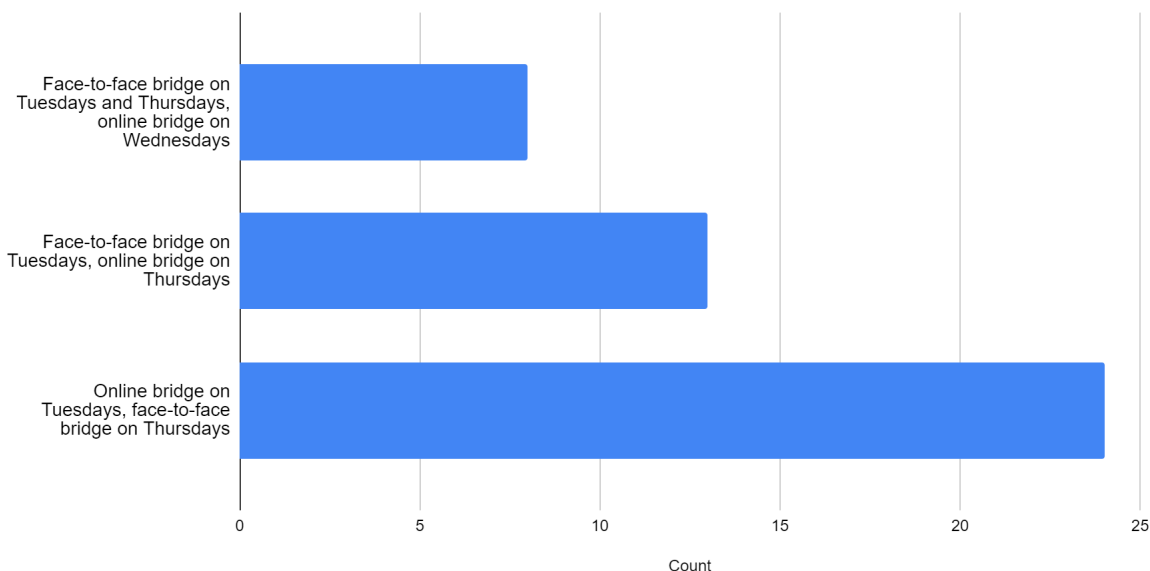
The main question asked where do you expect to play bridge from September.

What bridge do you expect or hope to play from September?



Of those who wished to play both online and face-to-face bridge there was a preference for continuing the summer bridge trend: online on Tuesdays and face-to-face on Thursdays. Interestingly this was acceptable to five of those who only want to play face-to-face bridge too.

Preferred options of those who will play online and f2f bridge



The question of afternoon bridge did not get a lot of support: seven members wanted afternoon bridge and 21 wished to continue in the evening with 18 people happy with either. If we had two face-to-face sessions in the week, then there was a lot more support for having one in the afternoon (15) as opposed to those wanting both sessions in the evening (13); fourteen were happy with either.

There was a large majority that wanted the evening bridge to continue starting at 7pm.

Other comments

The following comments were made on the form:

Happy to go with the flow but I think it is important we try to keep the social side as active as possible.

I think it's essential to have both f2f and online, so as to preserve as far as possible Club membership and participation.

I would consider returning f2f if a different larger venue with ventilation. Also depending on the Covid situation in the Autumn!

I would expect to play online only for this year.

I would prefer online bridge but that's selfish as I do not live that close to Berwick

If we are to attract younger members we have to play at a time that suits working people. I appreciate how difficult it is to find solutions to suit everyone!

if you decide to have one session f2f and one on line Please make sure the most popular competitions are f2f

It would be good to keep Wed evening free in case any bronze teams want to resume league matches

It would be sensible to encourage car sharing

Looking to move to the Swan Centre is worth exploring.

My Bridge world has been expanded and enriched by playing online and I have been happier than when I played in person at the club.

Pursue possibility of using Swan Centre. Once the new sports hall is completed, the old centre is becoming a car park, so no parking issues or time restrictions.

Fiftieth anniversary ideas

The following ideas were proposed by members:

A catered light lunch or light supper and a glass of wine either at the club or some other pleasant venue. Subsidised partly by club funds.

As Christopher suggested at AGM - a combined Xmas & 50th meal?

A social event like the Christmas party. If the ventilation at the parish centre has not been improved and a suitable alternative venue has not been found then the celebration should be held in September when the windows could be opened.

I liked Christopher's idea of a special Christmas party

A party!!! (not very helpful I know!)

Evening/afternoon meal with bridge before and after

Combined with the Christmas party

Have outdoor tea late in summer, but where?

Not really amazing it's 50 yrs I'm a founder member !!!!

Although the consensus at the AGM seemed to be for a social event I think an Anniversary tournament around the relevant date might be good too.

An outdoor event could mean you would have a higher attendance

Nice meal with some fun bridge afterwards

"Weekend away at a spa hotel playing bridge / enjoying facilities.

Catered meal – a number of good caterers in Berwick.

Cheese, wine, a cake from Cocoa Black & bridge

A fundraising campaign throughout the season for a selection of local charities (2/3) culminating in a presentation at a 50th year celebratory event.

Buffet party. Perhaps Quiz. Fun Bridge. Combine with an Xmas party?

Buffet Party ?

This will need a social gathering.

something extra with the christmas party

As I suggested, make the Christmas party special.

Celebratory meal

A big party

Given the financial strength of the Club, it would be nice to have a social event to include past as well as present members.

As per a suggestion at the AGM - with the Christmas party

Buffet lunch with a few hands of normal bridge afterwards

A meal with some fun bridge at a larger venue

a picnic - this would allow most members to participate if they wanted to.

Having watched much of this jubilee celebrations I now have an idea for the club to celebrate their 50 years: thirty years ago we played all of our Sim. Pairs on a Sunday afternoon which were well attended; could we have the individual competition or another afternoon of bridge with afternoon tea - sandwiches, cakes etc. being served before or after the bridge.

We could have the bridge and afternoon tea on the last weekend of August as a welcome back to the club.