

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 5pm Monday, 7 December 2020 online on Zoom

Present:	Reverend Canon Christopher Smith (CS)	President
	Christine McCreath (CC)	Past President
	Tony Reed-Jones (TRJ)	Honorary Treasurer
	Paul Gipson (PG)	Honorary Secretary
	Louis Moore (LM)	Honorary Competitions Secretary
	Peter Calder (PC)	Committee member
	Jill Connor (JC)	Committee member
	Sue Price (SP)	Committee member
	Penny Davidson (PD)	Committee member
	Chris Orchard (CO)	Committee member

Apologies: None

1. President's welcome

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

- New Committee member

Chris Orchard was co-opted, unanimously, by the Committee to take Jo Rowley's position until the next AGM. He joined the meeting at this point.

3. Online bridge discussion

- Current status

PG reported that the Berwick Virtual Club has been running smoothly since Tuesday, 3 November. We are averaging around 10-11 tables twice weekly and competitions are now in full swing, including the handicapped Swiss Teams which started last Thursday.

- Director status

PG reported that Louis Moore, Eric and Sue Price, Colin Edney, Stuart Breckons, Elaine Kilgour, Trish Frew, Jane Smithson and Julian Bales are now accredited SBU BBO directors.

- Movements

PG and LM are running all pairs events with Howell movements, meaning that they are single-winner events. This is a change from the traditional Thursday events which were typically Mitchell movements, but without the need for stationary pairs it seems fairer. The Howell movements ensure no rematches whenever possible.

Paul reported that the club can run now Swiss tournaments, but an evening is not long enough. It does give the opportunity to run a longer event if we wish.

- Trophies

The Committee will award the club trophies for the current online season.

- Feedback

One member asked the Committee to consider reducing the Tuesday and Thursday evenings to 16 boards rather than 20.

The Committee discussed this and unanimously prefers to keep to 20 boards for the time being. If club members feel strongly that a reduction is warranted, then please let a member of the Committee know.

4. SBU and club subscriptions status

TRJ reported that the club has 91 members, 85 with Berwick as their principal club. The majority of those that did not renew intend to rejoin once they can play at the Parish Hall again.

Eighteen members have renewed even though they have no immediate plans to play online.

We have welcomed new members who have joined primarily to play in our online events. These include Mrs Eileen Carmichael, who was first on the Committee in 1975.

TRJ also reported his discussions with the SBU about rebates on BBO entries. The club expects to receive ~66% of the entry fees in 2020 and ~45% in 2021.

5. AOCB

CS will be generating a Christmas letter from the President.

CS wants the Committee to address league teams and future planning at the next meeting.

CS wishes to discuss the 2021 Berwick Congress at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm.

The next committee meeting will be on Monday, 11 January at 5pm on Zoom.