

## **Minutes of the Berwick Bridge Club Committee meeting held at 5pm Monday, 23 August 2021 online on Skype**

Present:	Reverend Canon Christopher Smith (CS)	President
	Peter Calder (PC)	Vice President
	Paul Gipson (PG)	Honorary Secretary
	Tony Reed-Jones (TRJ)	Honorary Treasurer
	Louis Moore (LM)	Honorary Competitions Secretary
	Sue Price (SP)	Committee member
	Penny Davidson (PD)	Committee member
	Chris Orchard (CO)	Committee member
	Kitty Home Robertson (KHR)	Committee member
	Jean Mole (JM)	Committee member

Apologies: Jill Connor

### **President's welcome**

The meeting started with a short silence in memory of Sheila Pearson.

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated the online protocol for the meeting.

### **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

### ***Trophies***

The engraving machine is still broken and CS is still waiting for three plate trophies to be completed. He will start to distribute the other cups.

### ***Dealing machine***

Two members have shown interest and Terry is going to demonstrate the machine and process.

### ***Calendar***

PG has produced two possible calendars for the 2021-22 season, depending on the timing of our resumption at the Parish Centre.

### **Restarting bridge subcommittee update and next steps**

CS summarised the subcommittee's recommendations (attached).

The Committee agreed unanimously with the recommendations and confirmed that there will be no face-to-face bridge this year. The subcommittee will meet in mid-November and hopes to recommend a return to the Parish Centre.

PG confirmed that a calendar was ready for online publication and the Committee agreed to have a Christmas Party at the Parish Centre on Thursday, 23 December if it is safe to do so.

PG outlined the challenges of hybrid bridge, running both online and face-to-face sections and combining the results. He said that there were two main factors: assuring that there was a suitable number of players in both venues; and there were directors in both venues.

JM commented that leaving the windows open at the Parish Centre just creates a draught rather than ventilate the building. However she said the building is a lot better with fewer players, so the club may need to restrict the number of tables.

TRJ suggested that the club could alternate between online and face-to-face evenings rather than try and run concurrent sessions.

The subcommittee will take note of these points during its review in November.

### **Selection subcommittee update**

The subcommittee has selected three teams:

Scottish Online League 5:

George Martin & Brian Thomas  
Ian McCreath & Christine McCreath  
Jean Mole & Ros French (captain)  
Penelope Davidson & Perry Vassie

SBU Bronze League 7:

Ann Love & Julian Bales (captain)  
Sarah Davidson & Peter Calder  
Catherine Ross & Peter Ross

Tony Houghton (captain) & Nicola Corbyn  
Kitty Home Robertson & Christopher Smith  
Nigel Marlow & David King

TRJ has paid the entry fees for the two Bronze League teams. The SOL (Scottish Online League) entry fee will be paid after 1 September.

SP asked that the teams be publicised more.

### **SBU EGM update**

The SBU is preparing to apply to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which combines the benefits of incorporation and limited liability, with the advantages of charitable status.

There is an Extraordinary General Meeting on 30 August to gain approval for this plan, which is hoped will be completed by April 2022.

Little would change for the club although new member forms must make it clear that a new member is joining both the club and SBU simultaneously.

### **AOCB**

SP said that she was happy to host future meetings on Zoom.

CS has arranged for the club to mark George Martin's 90th birthday this week.

TRJ will be sending out membership renewals in the next week.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm. The next meeting will be on Monday, 22 November at 5pm.

## **Notes of a meeting of the Berwick Bridge 'Restart' Subcommittee meeting, held at 5pm on Monday, 16 August by Zoom.**

**Present:** Christopher Smith, Jill Connor, Louis Moore & Peter Calder.

**Apologies:** Sue Price.

### **Introduction.**

Having now received some guidelines from the Parish Centre concerning safeguarding against Covid infection, CS was able to report to members that the only stipulation which will be in place from September 1<sup>st</sup> is that the room must be well-ventilated. The Centre Management considers that matters such as the wearing of masks, and safe-distancing are ones which must be decided upon by individual hiring organisations. To the query of CS as to what was meant by 'well ventilated' the reply was that, at present this would involve keeping windows open to give a free flow of fresh air.

This information, along with various circulated background information describing the arrangements made by different clubs in preparation for the resumption of Face to Face (F2F) playing, had been considered by members.

In the general discussion which followed it became very clear that the general feeling of the subcommittee was that the Club should err on the side of caution; that there were still too many imponderables concerning the containment and spread of the virus, and that it was very difficult to know whether there would be another spike in cases and hospitalisations in the autumn/winter period.

As a result, the agreed recommendations to be considered in full committee are as follows:

1. That the Club should maintain an 'online only' policy regarding its competitions until the Christmas break.
2. This would mean that there would be two discrete sets of competitions, one set being played in their entirety before December, and the other half in the period up to May.
3. In November the subcommittee is willing to reconvene in order to assess the state of virus infection and casualties at that point, and after another short 'straw poll' of all members to see whether F2F is a viable option in the New Year.
4. On the evidence presented, the sub-committee would then make a further recommendation to the full committee; hopefully that F2F should restart in January
5. It was hoped by all members that the situation by then would be substantially safer and that the second set of Tournaments be played as a hybrid, using identical F2F and Online hands.

CMS - 17 August 2021