

Minutes of the Berwick Bridge Club Committee meeting held at 5pm Monday, 22 November 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
	Jill Connor (JC)	Committee member
	Penny Davidson (PD)	Committee member
	Kitty Home Robertson (KHR)	Committee member
	Jean Mole (JM)	Committee member

Apologies: Chris Orchard

President's welcome

The meeting started with a short silence in memory of George Martin and Joan Tait.

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Trophies

Trophies have been delivered to the recipients that wanted them, but CS has retained possession of many. PG has possession of the Congress Pairs cup and Congress Teams salver, having sent photographs to the winners.

Dealing machine

CS reported that Kate Mole has taken over from Terry Harris and will be dealing with the boards when we restart. Kate indicated that she would produce one hand record for the Director's use as hands are accessible on the Club's website after each evening.

CS thanked JM for her offer of help.

Christmas Party

PG said that there was insufficient interest to run a Christmas Party: a combination of timing and coronavirus concerns.

Financial Update

TRJ provided a half-year financial update. The club remains on a sound footing.

The club's insurance policy with Fidentia has been renewed. TRJ noticed a major difference between the SBU's club insurance and the club's current insurance policy; the section on management liability. In essence, the current policy provides some level of management liability cover for the committee that was specifically excluded from the SBU policy.

It is hard to quantify the value, but it is felt that it provides a significant level of comfort to committee members from being personally sued for "every day decisions" although we hope that we never need to use it.

Restarting bridge subcommittee update and next steps

The subcommittee's report had been distributed prior to the meeting.

The Committee unanimously agreed with the subcommittee's recommendations:

- club bridge will continue online until the AGM;
- face-to-face (F2F) bridge will restart after the AGM for the summer on one night of the week, to be determined in discussion with the PCC;
- CS will liaise and negotiate with the PCC about bridge next season. CS will continue to work on improving the ventilation at the Parish Centre. JM asked whether grants specifically for ventilation were available to the PCC? (*Subsequently discovered that this is a Scottish Government scheme and not applicable*)

PG asked whether the club would continue online bridge over the summer. The Committee was unanimous in wanting online bridge to be run on the other club evening during the summer.

CS stated that there were no plans to run hybrid bridge on F2F evenings over the summer.

The restart subcommittee will keep abreast of developments that may affect this decision.

Selection subcommittee update

As suggested by Sue Price, there is now a dedicated area for the club's online teams on the website (<https://berwickbridgeclub.co.uk/online-league-teams>).

PG said that the **Berwickers** (Tony Houghton (c) & Nicola Corbyn, Kitty Home Robertson & Christopher Smith, Nigel Marlow & David King) won Division 8, closely followed by **Quaranteam** (Trish Frew (c) and Jane Smithson, Kate Mole and Margaret Patterson, Christine and Ian McCreath) and **Berwick** (Ann Love & Julian Bales (c), Sarah Davidson & Peter Calder, Catherine Ross & Peter Ross).

PG proposed that the club should support Quaranteam in the SBU Bronze League in the same manner as the other two teams in the event. They were not originally supported as the subcommittee was unaware that they were playing.

This proposal was seconded by CS and passed unanimously.

PG also asked the Committee to consider funding the two Bronze teams (Berwickers and Quaranteam) in the SBU Bronze League 8 which has just started. Both teams are now in Division 5.

This proposal was seconded by LM and passed unanimously.

PG said that the FRENCH team in the Scottish Online League would have been relegated from their division and that many of the team did not wish to continue. PD said that she had established a viable team for Scottish Online League 6 in January.

PG proposed that the club continue to support all three teams in January. This was seconded by LM and passed unanimously.

CS said that the club had always supported league teams and was pleased that the Committee continued to do this.

SBU EGM update

The EGM approved the decision to change the SBU into a Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation and this process has now commenced with the aim of completing it by April 2022. In the short-term it will have no effect on the club.

New committee member

CS reported that Sue Price had resigned from the Committee. It was decided to leave the position vacant until the AGM, given the current situation, and co-opt any expertise from the club as necessary.

Berwick Congress

PG said that John Smithson, convenor, will canvass the Rugby Club and the caterer for a provisional booking on the understanding that it is indeed provisional and that the wheels might well fall off if there's another 'spike' or a reintroduction of restrictions. He will also take some initial soundings regarding the willingness of our traditional helpers within the Club to do their bit on the day, in case some of them would rather not risk any exposure.

The biggest risk is assessing the willingness of players to come to the Congress and associated financial exposure for the club.

PG stated that running a F2F Congress requires significant planning and a decision will be needed soon. On the other hand, running an online Congress is significantly easier.

CS said that the Committee should make a final decision at its next meeting.

AOCB

None.

The meeting closed at 6pm. The next meeting will be on Monday, 17 January at 5pm.

Notes of a meeting of the 'restart' subcommittee held at 5.00.p.m on Monday, 15 November 2021.

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

The meeting commenced with a discussion based upon the results of the 'Restart' questionnaire which had been completed by 51 Club members. It was noted that this was just over half the membership of the Club. It was also agreed that conjecture concerning the views of those who did not complete the questionnaire would be counter-productive .

It was noted that the numbers of respondents who were for and against a restart of Face to Face (F2F) bridge in January 2022 were fairly equally divided, but that on balance, taking into account the 22.6% who had a variety of reservations about restarting, there were more respondents who were not happy about returning to F2F bridge in January.

The discussion which followed was wide-ranging, with the majority of the subcommittee holding the opinion that attempting to restart Bridge at the Parish Centre in January was not advisable.

However, all were agreed that if, at some time in the not too distant future, a decision was not made about a Restart date, then the very existence of the Club was in jeopardy.

It was also noted that the Parish Centre could not keep dates reserved for the Club indefinitely. The comments from respondents about ventilation were also noted, and it was felt that some sort of positive resolution of this problem by the Church Council (PCC) was highly desirable.

The recommendations of the subcommittee to the main Committee are therefore as follows:

- That for the remainder of this season, online bridge will continue as the only bridge-playing activity of Berwick Bridge Club.
- That after the AGM evening F2F bridge once a week would recommence at the Parish Centre.
- That the President would follow up his letter of last year to the PCC and request information concerning any positive developments on the ventilation of the Centre.

The meeting closed at 5.35pm.