

Minutes of the Berwick Bridge Club Committee meeting held at 4.30pm Monday, 28 March 2022 online on Skype

Present:	Reverend Canon Christopher Smith (CS)	President
	Peter Calder (PC)	Vice President
	Paul Gipson (PG)	Honorary Secretary
	Louis Moore (LM)	Honorary Competitions Secretary
	Jill Connor (JC)	Committee member
	Penny Davidson (PD)	Committee member
	Jean Mole (JM)	Committee member
	Chris Orchard (CO)	Committee member

Apologies: Tony Reed-Jones, Kitty Home Robertson

President's welcome

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for the early start.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

PCC donation has been received. CS will book Thursdays for the summer evenings and he is still liaising for a permanent solution to ventilation problems for the winter.

Finance update

CS thanked TRJ for supplying a finance update and said he approved of the regular updates to the committee.

The Committee confirmed that the concept of a split payment into two parts, with a reckoning at the end of the season, remains the preferred method of collecting table money from September. TRJ's implementation paper suggests that table money should be increased due to inflation, rising costs of the Parish Centre and likely reduced numbers: JM suggested that the club could absorb most of these costs with its healthy bank balance and, perhaps, not raising table money should be an option.

Restart subcommittee report and next steps

The [minutes](#) from the subcommittee's last meeting were discussed.

The committee agreed that the summer bridge will run at the Parish Centre on Thursday from 2 June to 25 August: this start date will permit any motions, issues or concerns raised at the AGM to be addressed. It also agreed that online bridge will run on Tuesdays over the summer.

PG to distribute his 'safe bridge' document and an editable version of EBU blank risk assessment form to the committee: the restart committee will use these to prepare for the return of face-to-face bridge and ensure that all the measures taken are conveyed to the members.

The committee decided not to poll the membership over numbers who wanted to play summer bridge: instead we will create the best environment we can and hope that they respond positively. It is expected that any increased table spacing in the Parish Centre will more than accommodate the usual summer bridge numbers.

The restart subcommittee will meet next on 4 May at 5pm in the Parish Centre if it is available.

The full committee will meet a week later in order to prepare any motions for the AGM that restarting face-to-face bridge may require. There are many questions where the AGM is the correct place to ask the membership, for example the mix of face-to-face and online bridge from September.

Constitution changes due to new SBU SCIO

PG explained that he had been planning some minor changes to the constitution given the new charity status of the SBU.

However PG has been working with the Trustees as they develop the bye-laws and it has become apparent that the affiliation of the Berwick-upon-Tweed club may be problematic due to its location. Although there is no desire for the SBU to lose the club, the SBU needs to investigate whether it can reach an agreement with the EBU and EBL to accommodate the club. The problem is the 'no poaching between countries' clause in the EBL bye-laws.

Although no-one likes change, PG is relaxed about the position since affiliating to the EBU would not cause too many problems to the club's members.

The SBU Board of Trustees will discuss the matter at its meeting on 12 April. Given this, PG thought proposing any changes to the constitution should be delayed until we've heard the result of this meeting.

The general feeling of committee members was that the club had been affiliated to the SBU for almost 50 years and it is worth seeing if the club can remain within the SBU.

AOCB

All our sponsored teams in the SBU Bronze League and Scottish Online League have decided not to continue.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 9 May at 5pm in the Parish Centre, assuming it is available.

The meeting closed at 5.35pm.

Notes of a meeting of the Restart sub-committee of Berwick Bridge Club held electronically on Monday, 14 March at 5pm

Present:

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

The following matters were agreed, and should be forwarded to the main Club committee for discussion/approval.

- The AGM, will be held F2F in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 24th May 2022.
- Given the fact that there may be issues arising from the AGM which need addressing prior to the reopening of the F2F summer Bridge, it is proposed that it should start on Thursday 2nd June.
- Prior to a meeting of the Club committee, which will need to be held prior to the AGM, it was agreed that the Restart group should meet and conduct a Risk Assessment using a template available from either SBU or EBU (depending upon whether there is still any discrepancy between the legal positions on Covid Safeguarding pertaining to the two countries)
- The recommendations from that risk assessment will be presented to the full Club committee.
- Once accepted or amended by the Committee the practical proposals for safe F2F Bridge will be circulated to all members prior to the AGM, and be tabled as an agenda item at that meeting.
- A decision will need to be made by the committee as to whether there will be any online bridge offered to club members on another evening in the summer.

Longer term issues to be resolved and upon which the group had differences of opinion were:

1. Concerning summer bridge. Will it be desirable/necessary to discern from club members how many people intend to play on a Thursday evening in the Parish Centre?
2. If a decision is made by the committee to return to F2F bridge for the 2022-23 season. Will that be for two nights, for one F2F and one continuing online, or two evenings F2F with another evening for online bridge, or will online bridge be discontinued completely?
3. Developments with the ventilation in the Parish Centre.

The meeting closed at 5.35pm.

CMS 15.03.22