

## **Berwick Bridge Club**

Draft Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Google Meet on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 5pm

In attendance: Chris Orchard (President), Peter Calder (Immediate Past President) (Part), Tony Reed-Jones (Hon. Treasurer), Linda Warcup (Hon. Competitions Secretary)(Part), Ian McCreath, Nigel Marlow, Marilyn Hodgson.

1. President's Welcome – Chris Orchard welcomed the attending committee members to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence – Peter Bistram, Angela Hutchinson, Ian Guthrie
3. The minutes of the previous two meetings (10 April and 15 May) were agreed unanimously, there were no matters arising.
4. Coverage of Secretarial Duties - In the absence of a person willing to take on the role of Club Secretary the committee considered how the various tasks undertaken previously should be covered and what should be held in abeyance until a secretary could be found. Chris Orchard volunteered to take responsibility for calling and minuting committee meetings, Ian Guthrie will be approached to see if he will take the role of booking the Parish Centre, it was agreed that the 2025 AGM would take place on Thursday 29 May 2025, planning will take place later in the year, Linda Warcup will oversee printing of the club calendar (Martins of Spittal do the printing), a request for someone to take over the role of Membership Secretary will be circulated to club members, other tasks will be held in abeyance and dealt with on an ad hoc basis.
5. Competition Handicaps – as discussed at the AGM it was felt that a review of how we undertake handicapping going forward should be looked at as the process of maintaining and working out handicaps is onerous for the Competitions Secretary. Handicaps have been worked out for the 2024/25 season and it was agreed that these should be used and that the status quo be maintained for the club competitions but that something based around a weighted system of SBU rankings be looked at for the 2025/26 season along with a review over the next 12 months of club competitions. Chris Orchard raised the question of the number of teams playing in the Tom Woodman and suggested that the restriction to 10 teams be lifted as the online event is run as a Swiss teams so as long as there is an even number of teams the event does not need to be so restricted.
6. Festival of Bridge – Chris Orchard had joined a Zoom meeting with the SBU to find out about the options for the club to get involved in the Festival of Bridge running from 9 to 15 September 2024. Aimed at raising the profile of bridge and raising funds for Cancer Research – SBU target is £10k. Webpage on SBU site contains ideas for events that clubs might wish to run from pop-up bridge (playing bridge in unusual places to attract attention to the game) to taster sessions (2 hours) and learn bridge in a day. Resources are available from the SBU to assist with these. There is also advertising/promotional material available from the SBU including fliers, posters, balloons and bunting. SBU will also offer assistance in setting up social media sites such as Facebook, Snapchat etc to aid promotion. You post as and when you want but recommendation is weekly and it requires a resource input to build and maintain the pages (an hour a week suggested). Alternatively, we can use the SBU Facebook page. It was suggested that a taster session might be run out to a local school, Ian McCreath will contact the head at Longridge School to see if there is interest there for an event.
7. Any other club business – it was agreed that the annual club donation to charity should be made this year to the Berwick & District Friends of Dementia, the amount was agreed at £100.