

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 5pm Monday, 19 April 2021 online on Zoom

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

Apologies: None

1. President's welcome

CS welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated the rules of the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

○ Pianola Play

There was a third practice event where a full eight-board tournament was run without major issues, including using a playing director. The feedback was that the platform is still considerably behind BBO and no further tests are scheduled. PG will keep an eye on developments.

○ Etiquette

CO said that the etiquette of playing online was not being followed by many players. Frequently people were not announcing their basic system or, if they did, it was after they had already called.

LM said that the directors do tell everyone to announce their system at the start of any tournament.

The Committee will continue to monitor this.

3. Competition prize money for the 2020-21 season

The Committee decided that prize money will be awarded for this season's competitions, subject to the restriction that prizes must be in BB\$ for all events with an entry fee.

PG and TRJ will ensure that prize money is awarded prior to the AGM, where the trophies will be awarded virtually where possible.

4. Berwick Congress

The Berwick Congress is arranged for Sunday, 25 April starting at 1pm.

On gaining the Congress Licence, it was clear that the BBO now permits members of the home unions (EBU, WBU, etc) to play in the Congress. The SBU has never announced this agreement so it was not originally included in our advertising. PG has subsequently invited members of the Alnwick and Morpeth clubs, who occasionally attend: PG also invited St Albans and Rugby Village, EBU clubs we played during lockdown. To date four pairs have pre-registered.

PG is directing and there is no need to pre-register, except for EBU members who do not belong to the SBU.

PG will give CS's welcome at the start of the event and close the congress at the end.

5. Summer bridge plan

PG distributed a plan that was agreed by the Committee. PG will discuss the plan with the tournament directors and the Committee will make a final decision at the next meeting.

6. AGM preparation

- Committee positions

It was reported that Chris Orchard and Kitty Home Robertson were both prepared to stand for election to the committee at the AGM.

- Committee motions and/or topics for debate:

1 League teams and selection policy

PG distributed a one-page summary and it was agreed, subject to a minor change, to put this to the members for discussion at the AGM.

CS stated that the AGM remains the forum for policy decisions.

2 Running as a cashless club

TRJ's proposal for a cashless club was discussed. No timeframe for implementation has been proposed. The AGM will provide a forum to discuss this with members.

Action: TRJ to prepare a summary for members to discuss at the AGM.

3 Restarting bridge at the Parish Hall

CS is in discussion with Gwynneth Guthrie, who runs the Parish Hall, about the practicalities of restarting face-to-face bridge. Although the Parish Hall will be dependent on Government restrictions in England, the Committee is mindful that it needs to follow Scottish Government restrictions too.

CS has made a provisional booking for every Tuesday and Thursday for next season and summer Thursday evenings in 2022.

SP raised the issue of ventilation in the Parish Hall, which has traditionally been poor. Clearly this is an issue for anyone using the hall.

Action: CS will discuss this with Gwynneth.

It is hoped that the situation will be clearer by the next Committee meeting.

7. AOCB

- SBU Disciplinary Procedures

The SBU has published and updated its disciplinary procedures with respect to handling accusations of cheating online. In essence it will handle all accusations made against SBU members wherever they occur online, whether they are SBU, club or events hosted by other organisations. SBU members are required to inform the SBU of any accusations they make.

Action: PG will update the website with these procedures.

- Future meetings

SP and Eric Price will be taking a break from Zoom over the summer, although they will be hosting the AGM.

Action: PG will investigate alternative solutions for Committee meetings.

- Dealing machine

CS has approached a member about taking over the responsibilities of the club's dealing machine.

CM has arranged a thank you gift to Terry Harris for all his good work in managing the dealing machine since the club purchased it.

The meeting closed at 6pm.

The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, 18 May at 5pm on a platform yet to be identified.

[PG confirmed after the meeting that it will be on Skype]