

Minutes of the Berwick Bridge Club Committee meeting held at 5pm Monday, 24 April 2023 online on Google Meet

Status: Approved ▾

Present:	Peter Calder (PC)	President
	Canon Christopher Smith (CS)	Past President
	Paul Gipson (PG)	Honorary Secretary
	Tony Reed-Jones (TRJ)	Honorary Treasurer
	Louis Moore (LM)	Honorary Competitions Secretary
	Angela Hutchinson (AH)	Committee member
	Penny Davidson (PD)	Committee member
	Jean Mole (JM)	Committee member
	Chris Orchard (CO)	Committee member

Apologies: Kitty Home Robertson, Linda Warcup

President's welcome

PC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

BABC

The BABC Border Teams will be held in May at the Kelso Golf Club in Kelso. There are currently five teams entered. Today PG has emailed the Border club presidents and the club membership reminding them of the event.

Kelso has agreed to take over the presidency in August.

Berwick Congress review

PC congratulated Penny on her performance in the pairs.

The congress ran relatively smoothly and was considered a success. It sounded like most people would return next year.

Paul thought we should probably limit it to 18 teams and 38 pairs next year, given the space at the club. He also thought the director needed an assistant, especially to run the teams, and that this should be budgeted.

Kate Mole did a sterling job dealing boards for the event.

The committee decided to make a £100 donation to Berwick Cancer Cars.

Membership survey review

PG quickly summarised the membership survey report (available [online](#)): 53 members replied.

PG added the new information that the Parish Centre is only available on Tuesday evenings and Monday afternoons (after 2.30pm).

The survey results showed that some members were interested in more bridge, but the committee decided that the number of people who wanted a change was too small to warrant making a change.

Overall, the committee believes that the current arrangements are working well and will recommend that they be continued at the next annual general meeting.

There was discussion about the popularity of afternoon bridge. PG mentioned that the Melville Club and Richmond Club had both struggled to get afternoon bridge off the ground, but it eventually became very popular. Although the catchment areas of these clubs are very different to ours, the committee will ask the AGM to consider running an additional session at the Parish Centre on Monday afternoons, on a trial basis.

PG suggested that these sessions should be run like summer Thursdays, mainly social with a host system and without the pressure of existing club trophies. However it is dependent on the goodwill of directors and scorers.

JM suggested that we could start Monday afternoon lessons during the summer, both to assure a hall booking and also to take advantage of a Monday duplicate session for the beginners to play alongside - PC and JM will discuss this with LW for her thoughts.

AGM preparation

PC and JM will approach a number of people to see if they wish to serve on the committee. PG will also approach some online members about representing the online community on it.

The committee plans to propose AGM motions along the following lines:

“The Committee proposes continuing the current schedule of online bridge on Tuesdays and face-to-face bridge on Thursdays, as in the 2022-23 season.”

“The Committee proposes starting an afternoon bridge session on Mondays from 2:30-5pm at the Parish Centre, beginning in September (or earlier, if possible).”

AOCB

TRJ reported that:

- he has made a grant to the Parish Council for the PIV system;
- he has established a savings account for the club now that interest rates have risen;
- will send out competition prize money in mid-May;
- will reconcile table money for cashless bridge shortly after the AGM.

PG, assuming he is reelected at the AGM, will consult the new committee and arrange its first meeting shortly after the AGM.

The meeting closed at 6pm.