

PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 7th December 2020

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|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Attendees: | Steve Lacey | Chair | (SL) |
| | Charles Greenlees | Treasurer | (CG) |
| | Allan Simpson | Secretary | (AS) |
| | Richard Ayres | Committee | (RA) |
| | Robert Kilby | Committee | (RK) |
| | Mel Melville-Brown | Committee | (MMB) |
| | Diane McGregor | Committee | (DM ^c) |
| | Ailie Henry | Trustee | (AH) |
| | Jenny Young | Trustee | (JY) |
| | Eileen Clout | Guest | (EC) |
| | Alex Lehman | Guest | (AL) |

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies received from Gill Seymour (GS) and Martin Berkien (MB) Committee.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 12th October 2020

2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Item 8.3 - Speed Bridge sessions
and

Item 8.15 - Online Lessons and programme, both covered under agenda item 8
below.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) tabled the normal sheet of management figures to 30th November including comparisons to the last 4 years (see Annex A). CG stated that the revenue earned from BBO sessions after EBU UMS charges is currently greater than current overheads.

- 4.2 CG further advised that an additional £1,334.00 had been claimed from Plymouth City Council (PCC) through the Government scheme which awarded the club £10k earlier in the year.
- 4.3 There was discussion on whether the club is likely to come under scrutiny for claiming these awards. CG advised that PCC has clearly stated that the club is entitled to these awards. Mel Melville-Brown suggested the monies be kept in reserve and the subject reviewed at a future date. Richard Ayres (RA) recommended the Committee should set the future date now. Steve Lacey (SL) Chair stated that it will be reviewed in 12 months.
- 4.4 Ailie Henry (AH) stated she felt uncomfortable about claiming monies which the club didn't really need. After further discussion SL stated that concerns are understood, however applications followed due process, were successful and we will return to the subject in 12 months and review what should be done with the monies.

Action Committee (Dec 2021)

5. Membership Secretary's Report

- 5.1 Allan Simpson (AS) tabled 2 membership applications for Sue Stewart and Diana Wood which were both approved by the Committee.

6. Competitions Committee Report

- 6.1 Richard Ayres (RA) informed the Committee that the Competitions Committee has set up competitions to Easter after which it is hoped some club sessions would be possible. Later on they will propose competitions beyond Easter.
- 6.2 The competitions running from 1st January to 31st March are:

Spring Cup

Individual competition online on Tuesday and Friday evenings with at least 2 different partners. Best 8 out of a minimum of 13 sessions to count from 1st January to 31st March 2021.

Tudor Spring Cup

Individual competition online on Monday and Thursday afternoons with at least 2 different partners. Best 8 out of a minimum of 13 sessions to count from 1st January to 31st March 2021.

Jan Plumb Cup

Pairs competition online on Monday and Thursday afternoons with NGS up to 6. Best 8 out of a minimum of 13 sessions to count from 1st January to 31st March 2021.

- 6.3 RA also said that the club has held a few inter club Team events since the club started playing online bridge which have been enjoyed by those taking part. The Competitions Committee would therefore like to hold some Team events solely between club members. This was agreed as a good idea.
- 6.4 RA reported that the Competitions Committee has also made clear who could be entered into competitions and has agreed that an individual needs to be a club member when a competition starts in order to be eligible. This was agreed.
- 6.5 It was also considered by the Competitions Committee that to increase club membership by offering those playing online from other clubs to join PBC for a £12.00 membership fee which would make them a paid up member until 31st March 2022.
- 6.6 After some discussion this was agreed provided that those members who had only recently joined and paying a half yearly subscription should be given the option to pay a further £6.00 to take their membership to 31st March 2021.
- 6.7 RA informed the Committee that the winners of the cups played for during the autumn were:
- Mayflower 400 Cup - Margaret and Digby Hole
 - Mayflower Tudor Cup - Sue Gregory
 - Mayflower Cup - Sue Gregory

7. Building Maintenance and Improvements

- 7.1 Ailie Henry (AH) reported that to bring the club fire security up to date a new fire alarm control panel has been installed, two emergency lights fitted with LEDs and one out of date smoke detector replaced. The manual call button in the hall has also been replaced.
- 7.2 AH also reported that we are waiting for a roofing firm to repair the guttering coming onto the flat roof and the flashings.
- 7.3 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair thanked Ailie for her time and effort in arranging these essential items of repair and upgrade.

8. Online Bridge

Speed Bridge

- 8.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) stated with so much going on currently Speed Bridge sessions will be put on hold.

Online Bridge Platforms

- 8.2 Charles Greenlees (CG) informed the Committee that using Bridge Club Live (BCL) the club would receive nothing in way of income. Therefore the options for the club is to continue with Bridge Base Online (BBO) or Realbridge.
- 8.2 CG stated that with the currently played sessions in BBO and after the deduction of EBU charges the club receives approx. £500/month.
- 8.3 CG also informed the Committee that Realbridge is currently being used to offer supervised sessions using the platform's audio and visual facility. These sessions will be free until Christmas after which there will be a charge. CG stated that Realbridge will also be used for lessons commencing in January.

Bridge Lessons

- 8.4 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair informed the Committee that lessons for beginners would start on 7th January 2021. CG asked Eileen Clout (EC) if she could help with lessons for improvers so that they could be held on a Monday. EC stated that she would be available. Richard Ayres (RA) stated that he was happy with either Mondays or Thursdays for improver lessons but if Realbridge would be the platform for lessons then he could not help as he currently can't access the platform.
- 8.5 After discussion on possible reasons RA couldn't access Realbridge Mel Melville-Brown thought that as RA's involvement in lessons for improvers was to the benefit of the club, the club might wish to consider contributing to any possible system upgrade for Richard.
- 8.6 Steve Lacey (SL) Chairs stated that it was possibly something to consider. SL then summarised the position of Online Bridge as follows:
- Continue with the current sessions on BBO;
 - Realbridge for supervised play sessions;
 - Possible move to Realbridge for some afternoon sessions.

- 8.7 CG reiterated that Realbridge would provide more revenue for the club and stated that whilst some members didn't like the audio/video facility members did not have to use it if they preferred not to.

9. Cashless Bridge Club

- 9.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) opened the discussion by informing the Committee that Realbridge, unlike BBO, does not have a facility for collecting table money. In addition many bridge clubs have gone cashless to remove the tedious tasks of collecting table money and counting, bagging and depositing the money by the treasurer.
- 9.2 CG stated that a Company BriAnMas provides a system that enables the collection table money not only for playing online but also for use when club sessions resume. CG, Steve Lacey (SL) and Eileen Clout (EC) have seen a demonstration of the system.
- 9.3 EC advised the Committee that members would have their own account within BriAnMas and in response to a question on who has control of the bank account EC advised that all money paid in advance would be held in a separate Plymouth Bridge Club account.
- 9.4 CG advised that there would be an initial set-up cost of £200 and a monthly charge of £20. All cash transactions within the club could all be catered for within the system.
- 9.5 After some discussion Steve lacey (SL) Chair said that there seemed to be agreement in principle to take this forward.

Action CG

10. Marketing Plymouth Bridge Club (Facebook Page)

- 10.1 CG suggested to the Committee that the club would benefit through having a Facebook Page (FB). Emma Clout (Eileen's daughter) had done some market research on other bridge clubs that have a FB page the documents from which had previously been circulated to the Committee.
- 10.2 It was generally felt that there would be nothing negative from the club having a FB page and that a FB proposal should be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Action CG

11. Planning Club Opening

- 11.1 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair stated that there was no need to have a long discussion now but at the next Committee meeting there would need to be a discussion on the steps that would have to be taken before the club could resume bridge sessions.

Action Committee

12. Correspondence

- 12.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

13. Any Other Urgent Business Notified to the Chair

- 13.1 There was no other urgent business to discuss.

14. Date of Next Meeting

- 14.1 The next Committee meeting was arranged for the 8th February 2021 at 17-00.

Allan Simpson
Secretary