

PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 12th April 2021

Attendees:	Steve Lacey	Chair	(SL)
	Charles Greenlees	Treasurer	(CG)
	Allan Simpson	Secretary	(AS)
	Mel Melville-Brown	Vice Chair	(MMB)
	Robert Kilby	Committee	(RK)
	Martin Berkien	Committee	(MB)
	Andy Carpenter	Trustee	(AC)
	Ailie Henry	Trustee	(AH)
	Jenny Young	Trustee	(JY)

Guests: Eileen Clout (EC) and Alex Lehmann (AL)

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies received from Richard Ayres (RA), Gill Seymour (GS) and Diane McGregor.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 8th February 2021

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 Previous Item 10.2 - Action Complete.

Item 4.7 - Covered under agenda item 4.

Item 5.3 - Action Complete.

Item 8.7 - Pianola Play trial session held on 9th March. Action complete.

Item 9.2 - Separate Santander account opened. Action complete and discussed further under item agenda item 9.

4. Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) presented the 31st March 2021 financial management figures, See Annex A attached and stated that table money receipts were reasonable as the club continues to play 2 afternoon and 2 evening duplicate sessions on BBO.
- 4.2 CG also advised that income from teaching had also improved with the start of beginners and improver courses. Running costs were obviously down with the club closed and the club had also received grants through the Government Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLG).
- 4.3 Robert Kilby (RK) asked what the cost of playing on BBO was i.e. the difference between the payments to BBO against what the club receives. CG advised that the difference was \$2.10. RK was surprised that there was not a cost for playing on BBO shown in the financial management sheet.
- 4.4 Andy Carpenter (AC) explained that the club receives a net income from playing on BBO. BBO pays 70% of the session fee (per player) as royalties directly to the EBU. The EBU then passes the equivalent in sterling to the club. The amount credited does not include any deduction for UMS payments for which the EBU claims separately from the club.

Covid-19 Support Grants

- 4.5 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair asked Mel Melville-Brown (MMB) to outline the findings of the review group that undertook an independent check of the grants received so far.
- 4.6 MMB stated that the conclusion was that the sums applied for met the criteria based on business rates as well as an appropriate level of reduction on income to receive an additional £1,525.
- 4.7 MMB thanked Charles and Eileen for providing supporting documentation to enable the review to be undertaken. The report is provided as Annex B to these minutes.
- 4.8 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair thanked MMB for the report and it was now a Committee action to decide what to do with the monies received.
- 4.9 Andy Carpenter (AC) considered the grant money is effectively replacing income the club would normally receive which would be re-invested into club premises.

- 4.10 In response to Eileen Clout (EC) enquired if the club had free rein to use the money as they please. MMB replied that there was no specific criteria on what the money should be used for other than for the benefit of the business.
- 4.11 Martin Berkien (MB) stated the club had a large liability with the building and the grants should be used for the benefit of the club.
- 4.12 The general consensus was that the grant monies received so far should be kept.

Restart Grants

- 4.13 Charles Greenlees (CG) informed the Committee that he had received information from Plymouth City Council (PCC) that applications for Restart Grants could now be made and applications will close on the 30th June 2021. The club would be eligible for a restart grant of £8k based on the club's rateable value being less than £15k.
- 4.14 There was discussion on the measures that might be necessary to provide a Covid-19 safe environment for the club to re-open e.g. Perspex screens, tablets or other devices, none of which would be cheap and a restart grant could provide the necessary funds.
- 4.15 Steve lacey (SL) Chair suggested CG circulate the information received from PCC to the Committee and for them to respond direct to the chair with their thoughts.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

- 5.1 Allan Simpson (AS) informed the Committee that there had been no new membership applications although 3 people had paid an annual subscription in order to join the current improvers' course.
- 5.2 It was agreed that the annual membership fee would be kept at £12 and should now be collected.

Action AS

6. Competitions Committee Report

- 6.1 Andy Carpenter (AC) advised that the Spring Cups and Jan Plumb Cup competitions had ended with the results on the club website.
- 6.2 There continues to be Team Competitions with 1 in May against Pinner, another in June and possibly another 1 a bit later.

7. Building Maintenance and Improvements

- 7.1 Ailie Henry (AH) reported that the sky light in the main bridge room had been re-sealed and Charles Greenlees reported that the boiler had been serviced and a gas safety certificate issued.

8. Online Bridge and Bridge Lessons

Bridge Lessons

- 8.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) reported that the 2nd term of beginner and improver courses had just started with 8 attending the beginners' lessons and 24 the improvers.
- 8.2 CG thanked Eileen Clout (EC) and Alex Lehmann (AL) for their valuable input to the lessons.

Online Bridge

- 8.3 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair stated that Realbridge is being used for lessons and the club should now start the migration of sessions to Realbridge with the advantage of robots not used and the provision of audiovisual play which makes it more like playing in the club.
- 8.4 There was agreement that as members had BB\$ credits there should be a staggered migration. It was decided that the 1st Realbridge session should be on Thursday 6th May and that the charge for a Realbridge club session would be £2.50.
- 8.5 The problem with slow play was raised by Robert Kilby (RK) as 24 minutes for 3 boards was reasonably generous and some take much longer and more time is often added.
- 8.6 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair replied that time is often added due to internet connection problems. Andy Carpenter (AC) also stated that when directing a session you do see the issues people have and Directors try to accommodate people where possible. RK stated that he would be prepared to direct a session.

9. Cashless Bridge Club

- 9.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) stated that the system has been set up and is now ready to go live and that members would receive details on how to put credit into their account.

Action CG

10. Preparations for the AGM

- 10.1 It was agreed that the AGM should be held on Zoom as last year and the date agreed was the 7th June 2021.
- 10.2 All members to receive notice of the AGM by either e-mail or letter together with a nomination form for Officer and Committee nominations to the Committee. Nominations will then be displayed on the club website within required time limits.

Action AS

11. Planning Club Opening

- 11.1 As the re-opening of the bridge club is unlikely to be allowed before the next Committee meeting it was agreed to hold this agenda item until that meeting.

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 will be arranged after the 2021 AGM.

Allan Simpson
Secretary