

PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 12th October 2020

Attendees: Steve Lacey	Chair	(SL)
Charles Greenlees	Treasurer	(CG)
Allan Simpson	Secretary	(AS)
Robert Kilby	Committee	(RK)
Mel Melville-Brown	Committee	(MMB)
Diane McGregor	Committee	(DM ^c)
Martin Berkien	Committee	(MB)
Andy Carpenter	Trustee	(AC)
Ailie Henry	Trustee	(AH)
Jenny Young	Trustee	(JY)
Alex Lehman	Guest	(AL)

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies received from Richard Ayres (RA) and Gill Seymour (GS) Committee.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 12th August 2020

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 Item 4.3 - Ailie Henry reported that Clare is working through a list of jobs to do and that it is being monitored. It was agreed that Clare should continue to attend the club premises for 5hrs/wk until further notice.

Actions Complete

- 3.2 Item 7.3 - As it is unlikely that club would be able to open for F2F bridge for some months actions required before re-opening will be discussed and agreed at a future meeting.

Actions Complete

- 3.3 Item 7.5 - See agenda item 7.

Actions Complete

- 3.4 Item 10.1 - The club has now registered the plymouthbridge.co.uk domain name with GoDaddy.

Actions Complete

4. Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) tabled the normal sheet of management figures to 30th September including comparisons to the last 4 years (see Annex A). CG stated that as expected with the club closed income from table money is considerably reduced but we also have reduced expenditure.
- 4.2 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair asked the treasurer if there was any need for concern. CG replied that online bridge is bringing in some income so there was no real cause for concern at the moment.

5. Membership Secretary's Report

- 5.1 Allan Simpson (AS) advised that the club currently has 124 members, 119 full members and 5 life members. 18 previous members did not renew their membership for 2020/21.
- 5.2 New membership applications for Dr Joe Pitt, Mrs Nikki Bellers and Mr Len Beale were approved by the Committee.

6. Competitions Committee Report

- 6.1 Andy Carpenter (AC) reminded the Committee that the competitions currently running are:

Mayflower 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 September to 30th November 2020.

Mayflower Tudor 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 1 September to 30 November 2020

Mayflower 400 Cup

Pairs competition online on Monday and Thursday afternoons with at least 2 different partners with NGS up to 6. Best 8 out of a minimum of 13 sessions to count from 1 September to 30 November 2020.

6.2 AC also informed the Committee of the following events:

Teams Matches:

- 4th November - Deva
- 11th November - St Albans
- Plus 1 in January 2021

Ecats Children in Need:

- Friday 6th November
- Thursday 12th November

Devon Bridge Association in aid of Devon Air Ambulance:

- Wednesday 28th October

7. Building Maintenance and Improvements

Main Bridge Room Ceiling

7.1 Ailie Henry (AH) reported that Russel had been into the club and looked at the ceiling and considered that as there were no cracks evident it did not need replacing at the moment. Mel Melville Brown re-iterated a previous comment that the current situation provided a golden opportunity to get any work done without too much disruption to the club. Following discussion the consensus was that we should leave the ceiling as it is until essential to replace.

8. Online Bridge

Bridge Base Online (BBO)

- 8.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) stated that BBO was seen as the best option to date with many members now very familiar with playing online bridge. In addition there was no membership to pay and the club sessions were bringing revenue into the club.
- 8.2 Martin Berkien (MB) added that he thought it would be too disruptive to change over, whilst Diane M^cGregor (DM^c) and Robert Kilby (RK) both commented that they preferred the Bridge Club Live (BCL) platform.
- 8.3 Charles Greenlees (CG) thought the club might like to play a speed bridge session where 12 boards are played in an hour. It was agreed that this could be tried on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday between 6 - 7 pm.

Action CG

BBO/Zoom Trial

- 8.4 *CG* reported that the trial held on Wednesday 7th October ran fairly well although some players were unable to use Zoom and therefore unable to experience the full benefits. However you don't necessarily have to have every player using Zoom.
- 8.5 Steve Lacey (Chair) remarked that there seemed to be mixed feelings about using Zoom some liked it whilst others thought it a distraction.
- 8.6 A proposal to try Zoom again in an afternoon bridge session in the near future was agreed.

Others

Realbridge

- 8.7 Andy Carpenter (AC) informed the Committee about Realbridge which is an integrated system using built in video and sound. It's easy to use and had played in an Exeter Bridge Club Realbridge session with Charles but when playing with another club conversation was more subdued than it would be with familiar faces at the table.
- 8.8 The system is expected to go live on the 23rd October, is being used for the EBU Autumn Congress and would be a cheaper option.
- 8.9 AC advised that he and Charles Greenlees (CG) were taking part in Realbridge Director training on 13th October.

Bridge Club Live (BCL) - Audio/Visual Developments

- 8.10 Allan Simpson (AS) also reported that BCL are working to integrate both audio and visual into their NeXtGen program for playing online bridge and the system should be trialed very shortly.
- 8.11 Steve Lacey (Chair) stated that all options should be explored and reported back as appropriate.

Online Bridge Lessons

- 8.12 Charles Greenlees (CG) together with Alex Lehman (AL) suggested that the club should consider providing online lessons especially as the club won't be opening soon to provide face to face lessons. The lessons could be for both beginners and intermediate players. A lesson would be of 2 hrs duration and comprise of teaching and play.

- 8.13 The Committee agreed that this was worthwhile pursuing. Mel Melville Brown (MMB) suggested that a baseline course should be developed with a list of topics the lessons would cover.
- 8.14 CG stated that he would also contact Richard Ayres and Martin Jones who taught intermediate lessons in the club.
- 8.15 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair summarised that the Committee were in favour of developing online lessons and establishing a programme as soon as possible.

Action CG/AL

9. Correspondence

- 9.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

10. Any Other Urgent Business Notified to the Chair

- 10.1 There was no other urgent business to discuss.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- 11.1 The next Committee meeting was arranged for the 7th December 2020 at 17-30.

Allan Simpson
Secretary