

## PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

### Minutes of Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 8th February 2021

<b>Attendees:</b>	Steve Lacey	Chair	(SL)
	Charles Greenlees	Treasurer	(CG)
	Allan Simpson	Secretary	(AS)
	Robert Kilby	Committee	(RK)
	Mel Melville-Brown	Vice Chair	(MMB)
	Diane McGregor	Committee	(DM <sup>c</sup> )
	Andy Carpenter	Trustee	(AC)
	Ailie Henry	Trustee	(AH)
	Jenny Young	Trustee	(JY)

#### **1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies received from Gill Seymour (GS) Committee.

#### **2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 7th December 2020**

2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

3.1 Item 4.4 - Government Grants, ongoing action December 2021.

Item 9.5 - Cashless Bridge Club, covered under agenda item 9 below.

Item 10.2 - Club Facebook Group. Charles Greenlees (CG) reported that an initial FB page had been created and it was suggested that it would be useful for a Committee member to have an admin role to assist in managing the FB Group. Allan Simpson (AS) accepted the role.

**Action AS**

Item 11.1 - Planning Club Opening, covered under agenda item 11 below.

## 4. Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) presented the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 financial management figures, See Annex A attached.
- 4.2 Robert Kilby (RK) queried why the table money wasn't higher and also why income from the Chess Club was shown. In answer to the latter question CG advised that the Chess Club paid in advance early in 2020 and that January's figures will show that they have now been given a refund.
- 4.3 Allan Simpson (AS) considered that comparing table money for 2020 against 2019 wasn't a like for like comparison and expressed unease especially if the figures indicated were included in an assessment of loss of turnover for qualification for Government grants. AS suggested that perhaps the gross table money BBO takes should be shown and the 30% that BBO retains should be shown as a cost to the club similar to other costs the club incurs in running bridge sessions, e.g. Pianola and EBU UMS.
- 4.4 Ailie Henry (AH) also expressed her concerns about receiving Government grants.
- 4.5 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair reminded the Committee that there is an ongoing action to review what happens to the grants at the December 2021 Committee meeting.
- 4.6 Discussion continued on whether the club should be eligible for Government grants based on loss of income. Mel Melville-Brown (MMB) proposed that an independent look into the grants received should be undertaken by a couple of Committee members.
- 4.7 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair accepted MMB's proposal and it was agreed that Ailie Henry (AH) and Allan Simpson (AS) should assist MMB in undertaking this independent check.

**Action MMB/AH/AS**

- 4.8 SL Chair stated that the second point to consider is how table money should be accounted for. CG stated that he was prepared to change so that gross table money is shown from January with a new entry indicating the BBO charge as a separate expense.

**Action CG**

### Post Meeting Note

After seeking accountancy advice Charles Greenlees (CG) treasurer has been advised that as the club only receives income from online sessions through the EBU after BBO charges have been deducted the amount as currently indicated on the financial management sheet is an acceptable way of indicating table monies received.

## **5. Membership Secretary's Report**

- 5.1 Allan Simpson (AS) stated that there were no new membership applications received.
- 5.2 AS also stated that he considered there wasn't a consistent approach being taken on whether individuals participating in the improvers' lessons on a Wednesday should be club members. Some of those participating did not renew their 2020/21 membership.
- 5.3 Steve Lacey (Chair) asked AS to liaise with Charles Greenlees (CG) to resolve any anomalies.

**Action AS/CG**

## **6. Competitions Committee Report**

- 6.1 Andy Carpenter (AC) informed the Committee that there are 3 competitions currently running together with some team matches one of which is on Wednesday (10<sup>th</sup> Feb) with 2 more planned, 1 in March and 1 in April.
- 6.2 AC also stated that new cups had been ordered for the new Mayflower competitions and the new Tudor Spring Cup.

## **7. Building Maintenance and Improvements**

- 7.1 Ailie Henry (AH) informed the Committee that the roof leak had been fixed and now waiting for the stain to dry out before repainting.
- 7.2 Charles Greenlees (CG) also stated the annual boiler service was due to be completed and a gas certificate issued.

## **8. Online Bridge and Bridge Lessons**

- 8.1 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair stated that the club continues to run 4 sessions a week on BBO with Realbridge used to support lessons and online supervised play.
- 8.2 Charles Greenlees (CG) advised that there had been a good uptake for lessons with 9 and potentially 1 more signed up for beginner's lessons and 20 signed up for improver's lessons.
- 8.3 Allan Simpson (AS) proposed a vote of thanks and appreciation for all those involved in providing and supporting the lessons as a terrific amount of time and effort has been put in by all concerned. This was unanimously supported.

- 8.4 There was a brief discussion on the pros and cons of BBO against Realbridge, namely members now very familiar and comfortable with BBO but at a greater cost to the club with Realbridge providing an audiovisual experience making it more like playing in the bridge club. Diane McGregor (DM<sup>c</sup>) stated that it was nice to see and hear people when using Realbridge.
- 8.5 CG also stated that another benefit of Realbridge is that you do not have Robots as you can have  $\frac{1}{2}$  tables.
- 8.6 DM<sup>c</sup> enquired to the reason the club has not moved any duplicate sessions to Realbridge. CG replied that the main reason was the collection of table money which is done automatically in BBO, but this will be discussed further under the next agenda item.
- 8.7 CG also advised that Pianola had recently launched their online system as Pianola Play. As the club subscribes to Pianola it was considered that a trial of Pianola Play would be useful to evaluate the system.

**Action CG/AS**

## **9. Cashless Bridge Club**

- 9.1 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair stated that as everyone present knew he has been obtaining details from all Committee members in order to open a separate Santander savings account exclusively for holding members' money so that the club can be a Cashless Bridge club.
- 9.2 A proposal to allow Steve Lacey (Chair) and Charles Greenlees (Treasurer) to open a separate Santander savings account was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

**Action SL/CG**

## **10. Marketing Plymouth Bridge Club (Facebook Page)**

- 10.1 As previously agreed a Plymouth Bridge Club Facebook Group is in the process of being created.

## **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**

- 11.2 It was also agreed that as the last AGM was held via Zoom in June arrangements for this year's AGM will be postponed until it can hopefully be held in the Bridge Club in more normal circumstances.

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 17-00 hrs.

Allan Simpson  
Secretary