

## PLYMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB

### Minutes of Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

<b>Attendees:</b> Steve Lacey	Chair	(SL)
Mel Melville-Brown	Vice Chair	(MMB)
Charles Greenlees	Treasurer	(CG)
Allan Simpson	Secretary	(AS)
Bruce Foster	Committee	(BF)
Diane M <sup>c</sup> Gregor	Committee	(DM <sup>c</sup> )
Martin Berkien	Committee	(MB)
Toni Fairhead	Committee	(TF)
Gill Seymour	Committee	(GS)
Andy Carpenter	Trustee	(AC)

#### **1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies received from Karan Murphy Committee, Ailie Henry Trustee and Jenny Young Trustee.

#### **2. Minutes of Committee Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

- 2.1 Minutes dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were accepted as a true record.

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

- 3.1 None.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

- 4.1 Charles Greenlees (CG) treasurer tabled management figures to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, see Annex A, and considered there were no areas of no concern at the moment.
- 4.2 A question was raised about the large sundry expense which was clarified as mainly being the purchase of air purification units purchased from grant monies.

## 5. Membership Secretary's Report

- 5.1 Allan Simpson (AS) informed the Committee that requests for payment of 2022/23 subscriptions will be issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- 5.2 AS also advised that Keith Baldry had indicated a wish to join the club and asked the Committee that if an application is received is acceptance approved. The Committee agreed.

## 6. Competitions Committee Report

- 6.1 Andy Carpenter (AC) reported the following:

**Handicapped Teams** - Coming to an end with some final matches to be played in April.

**Spring Competitions** - Ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**Horsham Bridge Club Team Match** - Horsham Bridge won 85 - 54.

- 6.2 AC also advised that the club would be participating in an ECats Aid 4 Ukraine Simultaneous Pair's event at which the table money would be £5. A general e-mail will be distributed to advise how any member unable to play in the event could make a donation if they wished to do so.

## 7. Bridge Sessions

- 7.1 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair suggested that the main area for discussion was the Friday evening session and the Thursday afternoon 'hybrid' session.

### 7.1.1 Friday Evening

Andy Carpenter (AC) reported that Friday evenings had only attracted on average  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tables possibly due to a conflict with the online session and considered the long term chances of Friday evening bridge surviving being 50/50. The current plan therefore is to run Friday evening sessions fortnightly through April on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There was then some lengthy discussion involving all those present on why members were still reluctant to return to the club.

Martin Berkien (MB) remarked that pre pandemic members only played in the club but have now been introduced to an alternative so the club needs to consider carefully how to restore, maintain and increase membership.

MB made a distinction between people who join the club for social reasons and/or to improve their bridge skills and those who join for competition and considered the latter no longer needed a physical club and therefore the club should pay more attention to attracting people who want to learn and/or want social interaction. MB also suggested that having fixed partnerships was an impediment to these people especially as most sessions are dominated by established partnerships. MB thought that having some sessions with partners randomly selected might make the club more accessible.

Mel Melville-Brown (MMB) suggested there were several dynamics affecting the current situation and that the Committee could be going in a totally different direction to what members actually want. Therefore MMB proposed that a detailed questionnaire be put together to survey the membership to focus attention on what is affecting them. The Committee will then have a better understanding from the membership before going into any particular direction.

MMB agreed to put a questionnaire together to be checked out by the Committee before going to members.

**Action MMB**

#### 7.1.2 Thursday Duplicate (Hybrid).

It was considered that generally the hybrid session was disliked and therefore it was agreed that from the 28<sup>th</sup> April the only Thursday afternoon session would be held F2F in the club house. Diane McGregor (DM) and Charles Greenlees (CG) agreed to act as host for the first 2 sessions on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May respectively.

- 7.2 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair stated that the Monday RealBridge session and the Tuesday and Friday evening BBO sessions would continue as is for the time being.

## 8. Bridge Lessons

- 8.1 Charles Greenlees reported that the current course for intermediate players ended today (28<sup>th</sup> March) and that another course of 10 lessons would begin next week (4<sup>th</sup> April)

8.2 Steve Lacey (SL) Chair advised that a course of lessons for beginners run by Richard Ayres and himself would start on 26<sup>th</sup> April in the club.

## **9. Building Maintenance and Improvements**

9.1 Nothing to report.

## **10. Preparations for the AGM**

10.1 The appropriate notice of the AGM to be issued to all members as well as displayed on the club noticeboard. Nomination forms for Officers and Committee to be made available for return by 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

**Action AS**

## **11. Correspondence**

11.1 There was no correspondence to discuss.

## **12. Any Other Urgent Business Notified to the Chair**

12.1 Nil

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

13.1 The next Committee was arranged for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 17-00 hrs.

Allan Simpson  
Secretary