

Minutes of the Berwick Bridge Club Committee meeting held at 5pm Wednesday, 10 April 2024 online on Google Meet

Status: Under review ▾

Present:	Chris Orchard (CO)	Vice President
	Paul Gipson (PG)	Honorary Secretary
	Tony Reed-Jones (TRJ)	Honorary Treasurer
	Nigel Marlow (NM)	Committee member
	Peter Bistram (PB)	Committee member

Apologies: Peter Calder, Louis Moore, Angela Hutchison, Kitty Home Robertson, Perry Vassie, Linda Warcup

Vice President's welcome

As Peter is on holiday, CO welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Berwick Congress update

The Congress filled up well before the end of March and there will be 19 tables for the pairs and 18 teams playing. Some Berwick players have offered to be reserves if needed.

PG and LM are currently testing the Bridgemate feature of the Bridge Timer program that the club uses. We are likely to purchase this option (£20) after the congress since we both feel that it helps the directors.

CO will ask for the bar to open. CO will ask Reg Drysdale whether Dunbar has five table covers we can borrow. Otherwise he suggested buying five more..

New Committee members

PC has identified two members who will stand for the Committee but no-one to replace PG as secretary as yet.

CO suggested that splitting the secretary role, perhaps with the creation of a membership secretary, would make the role more attractive.

Boombar

The boombar is back working after Louis (LM) replaced its headphones cable.

AGM preparation

PG will ask for Officer and Committee nominations, and member motions, four weeks prior to the AGM.

At this point the Committee is unlikely to propose any motions.

The Committee discussed the rumour that a small minority of club members are unhappy with the number of away members playing in our online tournaments. PG said that he believed that most away online members were not particularly interested in winning club trophies, but principally in playing at a friendly online club.

CO wondered if our attraction was our low membership fee and the low cost of online club tournaments.

TRJ stressed that the income from online tournaments is ensuring that the club remains financially stable and is subsidising many other aspects of the club. If there was a significant reduction in this income, then it is likely that membership fees and table money would be increased.

However it was felt that while the BBO income remains strong, it is not appropriate to raise any fees.

The Committee noted that the challenge of online and offline members was faced by almost all clubs.

There was general agreement that all club members should be treated equally.

Summer bridge

Summer bridge at the Parish Centre will start on Thursday, 23 May and run until Thursday, 29 August. Master points will not be awarded over the summer as it allows non-playing hosts or directors to assist less experienced players with their play.

PG will create a signing-up system for hosts and directors.

TRJ proposed that table money should not be charged at the Parish Centre and this was unanimously agreed by the Committee. Master points will not be awarded so that assistance to less experienced players can be given.

BBO Summer bridge will start on Tuesday, 21 May and run until Tuesday, 27 August (although no game on Tuesday, 28 May due to the AGM). The cost will remain at BB\$2 and master points will be awarded.

PG will create a signing up system for Tuesday and Thursday directors over the summer and Thursday hosts.

NM asked about running other online evenings or hybrid sessions. PG said technically this is possible but it would require more directors. PG's other concerns were that section sizes would be very different; it may affect attendance at the Parish Centre; and those in the stronger section may feel that it is unfair to be compared with the weaker section. The Committee will continue to debate this issue.

Monday bridge

PG said that there was little enthusiasm for Monday bridge over the summer months and suggested that it stopped at the end of April.

The Committee hopes that Monday bridge will restart in September.

Partnership Secretary role

PG felt that the traditional role of the Partnership Secretary was to help people find partners for games at the club and this has not expanded successfully to BBO, mainly because you never 'see' people.

After discussions with Christine, the current Partnership Secretary, PG feels that we should designate the role as just Partnership Secretary for games run at the Parish Centre. For BBO and online games, PG will advertise the partnership desk on BBO and the Pianola Partner Finder and suggest that these are the appropriate tools to find online partners.

BABC Border Teams

Kelso ran a successful Border Teams event with fourteen teams and PG has sent the club's thanks for a friendly and enjoyable day to them.

The Committee was particularly pleased to see that Angela Hutchinson & Margaret McMurchie, Jane Davey & Kitty Home Robertson were fourth and to hear that they thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Master Points and Licensing Handbook

On 1 April, 2024 the SBU released the [new regulations](#) detailing the competitions that a club can run and the master points that can be issued. It is a major revision but most changes will not affect the club. LM and PG are clarifying a number of minor points with the SBU (who are being quite responsive).

AOCB

The club has received the Club Directors' Handbook from Angus Macdonald, SBU Chief TD. An electronic copy is available in the [Useful Links](#) section of the club website.

TRJ is meeting the accountants on Tuesday, 7 May to ensure the accounts are available for the AGM.

The date of the next meeting was not set and it is expected to be after the AGM. However the Committee may meet if it is necessary to respond to any members' AGM motions.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm.