

CHELMSFORD BRIDGE CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING

21st April 2021 6-15pm via Zoom

MINUTES

Present

Valdie Poter (Chair), Denis Anderson, Ted Cockle, Cath Fox, Daphne Hunt, Julie Payne, Colin Peden

1. Apologies

None

2. Previous minutes to be agreed

Minutes agreed. Proposed by Valdie. Seconded by Ted.

3. Matters arising

The Privacy Notice has been distributed to members and put on the website.

Bank account signature changes have been submitted. No confirmation has been received from the bank. Julie will follow up with the bank.

The charity contribution attributed to the club to the Sim charity challenge week in March organised by ECats for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie was £556.

43 people have so far have registered for the forthcoming seminars.

Ted's mentoring sessions are going well.

The process for achieving charitable status will be investigated in detail after the AGM.

4. Survey results

The results of the lockdown survey were discussed. The key points arising are as follows

- People appear to want to play more at Chelmsford BC. The club could become bigger after lockdown than it was before the pandemic.
- There is a desire to return to face-to-face bridge.
- There is also a substantial demand for online play to continue after face-to-face bridge resumes.
- There is no clear preference for BBO or RealBridge. Both have a strong following.
- There is also significant loyalty to other local clubs

It was unanimously agreed that the summary survey results should be distributed to members. Cath will distribute a link to the results by email to members.

5. Post lockdown / Face to face return

The timing for a return to face-to-face bridge was discussed. Ted said that a survey for Lingwood had given options of July, October or next year. It had been clear from responses that there wasn't sufficient demand for a restart in July.

Valdie has been investigating potential premises, and determining what additional facilities we may need, e.g. screens, additional boards (one set per table), increased size tables.

It was noted that the preparation time for having to provide multiple sets of boards for each event would be significant.

Cath suggested that an afternoon social session may be a useful way to gauge demand.

It was unanimously agreed that we would not commit to returning to face-to-face duplicates at the present time, and will continue with online bridge only for the time being. However, the committee will continuously monitor the situation, and review it every few months.

It was noted that the EBU County chairs meeting is scheduled for 26th May. The next committee meeting will be arranged shortly afterwards to discuss any matters arising.

6. Competitions

A summary of the winners for the current year needs to be prepared for the forthcoming AGM.

The competitions ought to be revised to cover Tuesday and Friday sessions, as well as Mondays and Wednesdays. The Tuesday and Friday events are ideal for competitions for developing playing players such as stratified and/or handicap competitions.

It was agreed that any multi-session competitions should be limited to the same day of the week. For example, the Pike-Douglas Cup would only include Monday evening duplicates.

Ted and Denis will get together with David Sparkes to identify some options for competitions and make suggestions to the committee.

The friendly match held on BBO earlier in the year against Tyler Hill was popular with players. It was suggested that we try to arrange further matches against other clubs, possibly on RealBridge in future. Ted will investigate.

7. AGM preparation

The AGM is scheduled for Monday 24th May, starting at 6-30pm, with an 18 board duplicate planned after the meeting closes.

All the current committee members are seeking re-election.

It was unanimously agreed that the annual subscription for the year 2021-2022 should be kept unchanged at £2 p.a., and to keep the session fees unchanged.

Julie is preparing the end of year accounts for the AGM.

The following reports need to be prepared before the meeting

- Chairman's report
- Treasurer's report
- Tournament Secretary's report

8. AOB

Cath would like to promote the club as an exemplar in discussions with the EBU.

Denis raised the subject of BBO convention cards. Not many members make use of the facility except those who play in EBU and other club tournaments. Daphne said that because most people were reluctant to create Convention Cards, it had been decided early on to make this optional. We asked players to use their profile for basic system description and to alert all Conventions during the bidding. Some players introduce themselves and their system in the chat at the start of each round.

There had been some BBO problems on Monday with some people being thrown off prior to the start for no obvious reason. It was noted that such occurrences are rare, and the situation will be monitored over the coming weeks.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 16th June @ 5.00pm

Colin Peden