

SEAFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Seaford Bridge Club held on Friday July 23rd, 2021 at 11.00 at 4 Crown Hill, Seaford

Present: Martin Auger, Christine Creamer (co-Chair), Leslie Fowle (co-Chair), John Gillespie, Pam Pelling, Francoise Basden-Smith, Ruth Skinner and Carol Gillespie (ex-officio)

1. Apologies for Absence

Received: from John Hughes.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the committee meeting of 5 October 2020 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

Ruth Skinner:

Noted: Ruth had joined the Committee and taken responsibility for welfare issues.

AGM Reports from the Co-Chairs.

Noted: These had been written; placed on the Club website; and reproduced in the Club Newsletter.

Website Maintenance:

Noted: Carol Gillespie had agreed to take responsibility.

Seaford Scene Article:

Noted: Pam Pelling submitted an article which was printed in the May 2021 issue of Seaford Scene. Pam was thanked.

Beginners Guide to Online Bridge

Noted: Christine Creamer had prepared a guide which was now on the Club website and had been reproduced in the Club Newsletter.

4. Correspondence

Received: (i) various emails from the EBU and Sussex Bridge largely related to virtual bridge issues and player suspensions.
(ii) various email exchanges with Wave Leisure related to reopening and hire charges.

5. Treasurer's Report

Reported: (i) the current account balance was £8917.17.
(ii) £1276.71 was set aside for BBO member rebates.
(iii) £207.27 was set aside for EBU UM payment.

- (iv) £3881 had been returned to members in May 2021 in respect of BBO rebates (£5.00 was to be donated to charity).
- (v) £7428.19 was currently available to the Club.

Noted: Martin was thanked for his work in paying over the BBO rebates in May.

6. Membership Report

Noted: That although the Club appeared to have 96 paid up members it was unlikely that many of these would resume active membership.

Agreed: For planning purposes to assume a membership figure of 70 or thereabouts.

7. Welfare Report.

Noted: Pam Pelling had covered Ruth Skinner's responsibilities during Ruth's recent illness.

Reported: (i) Cards had been sent to Ruth Skinner, Hugh Basden-Smith and David Neech's family.
(ii) John Cappello was unwell and receiving care.
(iii) Pat Budd was unwell.

8. Online Bridge Report

Noted: that the Tuesday afternoon online bridge session had been cancelled owing to lack of support - just 10 players had registered.

Agreed: to monitor the situation and if numbers did not improve to suspend Tuesday bridge until later in the year.

Reported: Both the Wednesday and Friday evening online bridge sessions continued to be well supported with 9/10 tables on average.

9. Discussion on the Return of Face to Face Bridge

Noted: that a survey of the club membership had indicated support for a return to face to face bridge provided that health and safety concerns were satisfied.

Received: a paper from Christine Creamer setting out the conditions to be met should face to face bridge return.

Reported: (i) Wave Leisure was proposing to increase the Sutton Hall hire charge from £12.00 to £19.20 per hour and that the number of participants would be limited to 18 (four and a half tables).
(ii) The 60+ Club was embroiled in a legal dispute involving both Age Concern and Lewes District Council about lease issues. This was unlikely to be resolved in the near future and would impact on the reopening of the facility. Additionally if and when this dispute was

resolved the building would require considerable refurbishment (replacement heating, windows etc.) and would be unlikely to reopen in the same format. The Club was likely to become more of a 'community hub' than it is now.

(iii) a return to face to face bridge would very likely require the purchase of a dealing machine (app. £4000) in order to both sanitise cards before each session and allow the possibility of 'hybrid' bridge sessions combining online and face to face play.

Agreed: (i) to hold fire on a response to Wave Leisure.
(ii) to await developments at the 60+ Club.
(iii) to seek quotes from other halls in Seaford, e.g. St Thomas More, Constitution Club etc.
(iv) to minute an 'intention to purchase a dealing machine, if and when required, without reference to the membership'.

10. 2021 Subscriptions, Table Money and Visitor Charges

Agreed: (i) It was unlikely that the Club would charge a subscription for the next membership year.
(ii) future table money charges would be considered if and when face to face bridge returned.

11. Club Newsletter

Noted: the 'Isolation Newsletter' had ceased in May 2021 and would be replaced with a 'Club Newsletter' to be produced as and when required.

12. Any Other Business

Disciplinary Issue:

Reported: that following two complaints (one written) from Roger Chapman about 'bullying behaviour' from his playing partner Phil Beal, Christine Creamer and Leslie Fowle had jointly written to Phil drawing his attention to the complaints and reminding him about the Club's policies on etiquette and behaviour. No response was received.

Housekeeping:

Agreed: The Secretary to correct Francoise Basden-Smith's email address.

Facebook:

Agreed: Pam Pelling to investigate the possibility of setting up a Seaford Bridge Club Facebook page.

13. Date/Venue of Next Meeting

To be determined.