

Minutes of the TCTBC Committee Meeting

held via Zoom

on 29nd September 2020 at 2.30pm

Present: Gerry McAinsh, Gill Spurway, Brian Tanner, Rosemary Findlay, June Goodchap, and Phil Green. Stan Christie was also present, (By invitation).

Apologies: , Anna Marriott, Graeme Dalrymple, Liz Oldknow,

Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2020 were approved.

Matters Arising: None

Treasurer's Report:

Firstly, end of 2019/20. From the outset of the year it was expected that a small deficit would be incurred, but a rise in club charges was deferred. Immediately prior to club closure and after discounting the purchase of the third duplimator, an end of year deficit of some £25 was forecast. COVID-19 changed everything. With play ceasing on 16th March a forecast income of £750 was lost leading to a deficit of £2,390, £777 after discounting the purchase of the third duplimator. The rugby club closure did, in effect, terminate the Letter of Agreement between the clubs, so as rent is paid monthly in advance a refund of £514 is due. It had previously been decided that the refund will not be requested until normal play resumes and the rugby club continues to store the club's tables and secure storage cupboard.

For 2020/21 only the virtual club has operated and as of 1st August the EBU and BBO have agreed a simpler calculation of royalties. The share is now a straight 70% of fees paid to BBO which are then sent to the EBU. P2P as a percentage is variable due to the exchange rate variations, but the EBU takes 25% of the royalties received from BBO (i.e. 25% Of the 70%). Overall, the club will retain some 50% of the fees each member pays to BBO.

BBO pay royalties one month in arrears. The royalties for June to August total, after P2P deductions, **£1229**. Other expenditure, after the normal April deductions of insurance, March P2P & SIMs, is minimal – directors' rewards & zoom hire. With these less significant expenditures taken into account the account balance is some £3,750. The expectation for end September is a total net income, after P2P but before expenditures, of around **£1700**.

IT Officer's Report:

Storage of equipment

Gerry is storing our laptops, two duplimators and BridgeMates at his home. He has removed all batteries where necessary. Gerry and Stan will liaise re powering up the laptops at regular intervals for updates etc.

Virtual Bridge/BBO

BBO appears to be working well and a good number of members have been educated in how to use it. Many thanks to all those who have given their time to help those less tech

savvy to get online and enjoy being part of trowBRIDGEclub “virtual”. Zoom is also working well for the Directors.

Members generally are not using the Partnership area of the website. This is a pity as it is a very easy and convenient way of finding a partner. Members are able to contact the Director in advance of our tournaments since they may know of someone also seeking a partner. As a last resort, members who do not have a partner could opt to play with a robot for a modest extra charge but this is not encouraged and would only be allowed once.

The possibility of playing 20 boards on a Monday was discussed but it was decided to keep with 18 boards for the moment. We will keep this under review.

Other online bridge systems offering voice/video are in various stages of development and this is definitely something we will be keeping an eye on. At present the EBU is trialling RealBridge and we await the outcome.

AGM 2020:

The committee noted that due to COVID 19 Restrictions, the club had not held its AGM in April as planned. After much discussion as to whether to hold a virtual AGM and if so what form it should take, it was decided that under current circumstances it would be best if the Chairman and Treasurer issue their annual reports, to be sent to all members outlining the club’s present position and the committee’s thoughts on the way forward.

It was also agreed that an AGM would be held in April 2021 even if it was necessary to be held “virtually”.

AOB

- It was agreed to invite those who had played more than 5 times online to become members, but only after issue of the Chairman and Treasurer’s reports covering 2019/2020.
- We need more BBO directors. Playing on BBO a Director’s role is more akin to a scorer’s job as the system does not allow for revokes, play out of turn etc. Therefore we are able to invite those not qualified as EBU Directors in F2F bridge to undergo training. Bryan Willis, Rosie Findlay and Gill Spurway are to be approached with this in mind.
- Come the dark nights and cold weather from November onwards, we may wish to consider starting up a third online session.
- Stan is to look into the possibility of stratifying events.
- **CIN:** The club has supported CIN Sims events for a number of years and it was noted that this can still be done via BBO. It was decided to hold this event for one session only, namely Monday 9 November.

The treasurer advised that amounts we have raised for this charity in the last three years are:

2017 £370 2018 £301 2019 £278

The committee agreed that we should charge members the normal BBO \$3 on Monday 9 November and, as we now have a healthy surplus of funds, the club will top up our donation in line with previous years.

Date of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting is to be decided following the issue of statements from the Chairman and Treasurer and any ensuing comments received from club members

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.50pm