**Barbara’s March Blog 2021**

**Once upon a time** there was a sleepy little coastal hamlet somewhere in the old country known as England.

Nothing much exciting happened in this little area for it was mostly populated by venerable elders in their latter years who amused themselves by playing golf or bowls or bridge and for those still physically active, all three, spiced up with the occasional gin and tonic or glass of red wine. Indeed those who were unable to participate in any of these activities soon found themselves in one of the myriad residential or nursing homes of which there were many in the area.

But then the unthinkable happened – because of the wickedness of the world the entire global population was visited by a plague which killed many, many people so that in every country in the world people were forced to live in isolation.

Fortunately folks were saved from extreme mental stress and boredom by the earlier invention of the world wide web and computers.

Now it just so happens this little corner of England was served by having four bridge clubs in close proximity to each other. They co-habited (mostly amicably) by playing on different days but shared a communal database of members.

A couple of months into the enforced isolation of all, the Head Honcho of one of the Clubs (Prince Charming) approached the owner of one of the other clubs (commonly known as the White Witch) and the Chairman of a third club (known as the Professor), with the suggestion of joining forces to create a “Virtual” club. They all thought this was a wonderful idea giving the members of all their clubs a means by which they could still enjoy their passion for bridge. The nuts and bolts were quickly agreed. The Professor did not want to be actively involved as he was too busy writing up tomes, so that left Prince Charming and the White Witch. Prince Charming was adamant he wanted to do all the admin work himself but because the White Witch would be providing an ongoing number of students they agreed between themselves that any profit derived from the “virtual Club” named by the Professor as the 1066 virtual club, would be divided 50/50 once expenses had been paid.

Well that was a nice little fairy story, wasn’t it? Now read the reality in the form of recent emails

 **-----Original Message-----
From: Brian Gould <brian.gould@live.co.uk>
To: Lattyherold@aol.com <lattyherold@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, 12 Feb 2021 14:53
Subject: Profit sharing**

**Hello Barbara,**

**I held a committee meeting on Zoom this morning.  The meeting decided to defer any profit sharing until the end of May, which is the end of our financial year, or the return of face-to-face bridge, whichever comes sooner.**

**Regards**

**Brian**

 (lattyherold@aol.com)To:**brian.gould@live.co.uk** + 3 more **Details 13th February 2021**

Brian,

Thank you for your email with the latest "development" regarding the prevarication of Bexhill BC with regard to effecting a decision about profit sharing almost a year after the initial agreement to set up the 1066 virtual bridge club.

The 1066 virtual Bridge Club is a separate entity to the Bexhill Bridge Club and therefore I fail to see why a joint virtual club of 3 separate clubs, i.e. Bexhill BC, St. Leonards BC and East Sussex BC has to be dictated to by the committee of one club only.   On whose authority is the committee of the Bexhill Bridge Club acting upon?  Why don't we use the profits gained so far to pay for legal advice?

I would remind you the East Sussex Bridge Club is proprietor owned and as such I have to submit a yearly tax return.  I trust you are keeping accounts which will stand up to scrutiny and in the (probably unlikely) event of my ever receiving a profit share, the paperwork will be such that I will be able to send same to HMRC with confidence.

Of course, neither St. Leonards BC nor myself has any idea of how much money is involved as you have not seen fit to divulge this information to us.

Presumably this is just another excuse for Bexhill BC to hang on to money it's not entitled to.  As you may well remember, you, I and Andy Eames agreed on the profit sharing ratio without the committee of Bexhill BC being involved in that agreement.

Are you now saying that you did not have the authority to make that decision?

As you are aware, I offered to share the administrative duties with you as Andy made it clear that he did not wish to be involved, but you declined.

I have done what I can to help the virtual club by personally teaching people how to feel comfortable when playing on line and have encouraged my students and members to participate.

Sadly the attitude of the committee of Bexhill BC is what I expected, so petty for the sake of a few pounds, but it is the principle at stake here.  I am not desperate for the paltry sums involved.

I will now be publishing your email and my reply to it in addition to any further emails from yourself or Bexhill BC on the web site of the East Sussex BC and leave my members to make their own decision on what I feel is a despicable and mean-spirited action by a backward looking club.

*Barbara Herold*

*Proprietor*

**Brian Gould (brian.gould@live.co.uk)To:you + 4 more Details 14th February 2021**

**Hello Barbara,**

**Thank you for your email.**

**When the 1066 club was first set up there was a suggestion that it should be set up as a separate club with the EBU with its own club number.**

**However, Jonathan Lillycrop of the EBU was reluctant to do this and advised that it would be better to run it through one of the existing clubs.**

**Also, a new club would have needed a new bank account and a deposit made as the initial expenditure would come before any income was received.**

**So, as I am the Chairman of Bexhill Bridge Club, it seemed best to run the 1066 club via Bexhill Bridge Club.  This meant that all the income and expenditure would also be handled by Bexhill Bridge Club.  It would not have been practical to do it any other way.**

**I have no intention of wasting any money on legal advice.**

**Fergus Cameron has been the Treasurer of Bexhill Bridge Club for nearly six years now and is quite capable of keeping detailed accounts of all the transactions.  When the time comes you will receive the relevant paperwork.  I can also state that I have not taken and will not be taking any money for the work that I have done in running the club.**

**Regards**

**Brian**

**To be continued……………………………………….**