

**WIMBLEDON BRIDGE CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES**

Held on Wednesday May 13th, 2020, 10am via Zoom

PRESENT: Graham Balin; Juliet Blows; Denny Endicott; Sandra Grossman; Brigitte King; June Middleton; Sheena Osborn; Calum Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE: Gad Chadha

		ACTION
1.	WELCOME & APOLOGIES	
2.	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING These were agreed and approved. They will be signed in due course.	
3.	MATTERS ARISING (not addressed elsewhere in the minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cashless payment system: Held over • Dealing Machine: Held over 	Calum Gad
4.	NEWS OF MEMBERS The Committee was sad to hear of the recent death of Diana Guerrini. Diana was a very highly regarded member of the Club. She was Secretary for over 5 years and had two spells on the Committee. From 2014 until last year she was one of the Club's two Trustees. She will be missed by many within the Club.	
5a.	COMMITTEE WORKINGS – Covid 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBC is keen to encourage our members to participate in bridge online. WBC uses BridgeBaseOnline (BBO) to play daily duplicate sessions. The sessions are already proving popular with over 220 members participating. • Originally WBC had hoped that the lockdown might be for a short period and so took the decision at the last Committee meeting to allow members to play WBC online bridge free of charge. Donations were requested from members to offset ongoing costs and many members have been supportive. However, these donations are not sufficient to meet the Club's monthly commitments and the Club is unwilling to dip further into its reserves for what could be several more months. The Committee agreed that a new financing model was needed. • Currently, WBC is using BBO to run its own sessions. Normal duplicate sessions run on Mon-Fri at 1.15pm and Sat and Sun at 10.15am. There are gentle (supervised) duplicate sessions being run on Tues and Thurs at 10.15am. Members are encouraged to try these sessions and Gad and others are available to help members get started on these online sessions. • The normal duplicate sessions are facilitated by a third party to whom we pay a fee per person playing. Gad manages these sessions each day being on hand at the start and finish of each session and available as a director throughout the play. Gad sets up the gentle sessions and can answer any bidding or play questions. • BBO does not function with half tables so it is necessary not only for a host to be available for each session but also a 'spare pair' so that no member is prevented from having a game. On rare occasions Gad has had to invite non-Club members to make up a table. • It would help if members 'arrived' to play fifteen minutes in advance and ensured that they were logged in at the start of the play. If members are not logged in at the start of play both that member and his/her partner will be automatically excluded by BBO from playing. • The Committee considered two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To carry on with the current arrangements but asking for a fee from each player. b) To use the EBU Virtual Clubs arrangement. Under this arrangement a fee from each player would be payable via BBO. • There was considerable discussion concerning the options and the Committee decided to carry on with the current arrangements but to charge a fee to play. One disadvantage of the EBU model was that it would not run Gentle sessions, as we currently do. It was also a more expensive option than the WBC organised sessions. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee agreed to charge players £3 per session from June 1st. JB agreed to draft a letter to this effect to all members. The Committee had received an email from the EBU asking the Club to start paying Universal Membership Subscription (UMS) to the EBU. It was agreed that we would like to support the EBU but our priority is to the current membership and the sustainability of the Club. GB will write to the EBU explaining our decision. If finances allow WBC may make a donation to EBU at some point in the future. Members are encouraged to donate to the EBU if they can. AGM: The AGM was planned for June 17th. The constitution requires that there shall be thirty members present in person (Section 12.9). The Committee agreed that this was not a viable option in the current circumstances considering government advice and decided to postpone the AGM for up to 3 months when the options will be reassessed. It was agreed that the Committee should remain as currently constituted until the AGM can be held. Year end accounts will be sent out to members by mid-June. SO will prepare a note to members. Various emails from Club members were noted. Gad has written to the landlords again requesting a rent waiver. Gad is planning a programme of individual seminars, a teaching programme for beginners, intermediates and advanced members, and refresher classes. They will commence in mid-June. Details will be sent out to members. 	<p>Juliet</p> <p>Graham</p> <p>Calum/Denny Sheena</p> <p>Gad</p>
5b.	COMMITTEE WORKINGS - Other	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising and Business Development: Held over 	
6.	WORK GROUPS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charitable Status Working Group (CSWG): Deferred until mid 2020. 	
7.	MANAGER'S REPORT	
8.	COMPETITIONS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
9.	POLICIES & PRACTICES UPDATE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire Emergency Plan: held over Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan: held over 	
10.	FINANCE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft year-end Financial Statements were presented. The Committee authorised either the Treasurer or the Chairman to sign the Financial Statements on its behalf once the Independent Examiner had finished his work on them provided there were no subsequent substantive changes to them. Some financial models for 20/21 were presented and discussed. 	Denny
11.	MATTERS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
12.	CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS	
	There were no matters to be recorded as confidential.	
13.	NEW MEMBERS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following receipt of subscriptions for 20/21 the membership levels are as follows: 518 full members, 32 junior members, 41 life members, 62 student members and 14 honorary members giving a total of 667 members. A number of players have asked to become members of WBC to play online bridge and have paid their membership subscription. The Committee agreed to accept them as members pending receipt of their fully completed formal application forms. Their names are attached. 	
14	AOB	
15.	DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETINGS	
	June 10 th	

The meeting closed at 1230.

WBC- List of New Membership Applications to 10 May 2020

First name	Last name	Member category
Susi	Behrmann	Full
Ted	Booth	Full
John	Clark	Full
Bob	Edmonds	Full
Paulo	Feio	Overseas
Emma	Forbes	Full
Kit	Jackson	Full
Anne	James	Full
Nadia	Koch	Full
Malcolm	Morris	Full
Sherry	Murray	Full
Dan	O'Farrell	Full
Mary	Oury	Full
Stephen	Posford	Full
Linda	Retzlaff	Full
Robin	Retzlaff	Full
Linda	Shepherd	Full
Seb	Sinclair	Junior
Rachel	Smith	Full
Vida	Smith	Full
Anthony	Stone	Full
Mike	Wood	Full