

**WIMBLEDON BRIDGE CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES**

Held on Wednesday November 11th, 2020, 10am by Zoom

PRESENT: Graham Balin; Juliet Blows; Denny Endicott; Sandra Grossman; Hal Hazine; Brigitte King; Ann Lindsay; June Middleton; Sheena Osborn

IN ATTENDANCE: Gad Chadha

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

None

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

These were agreed, approved and will be signed in due course

3. HOW WE WORK AS A COMMITTEE

The new chair of WBC, HH, presented a document 'How we work' which the Committee discussed and refined. The document is attached.

Action: GC to send out a list of which WBC members have authority to access the various areas of Pianola.

4. SURVEY RESULTS

JM Presented the survey results. We received 257 responses to the 'Understanding our Membership' survey and 203 responses to the 'Winter Schedule' survey. The summary is below:

Price	32% £3.50, 26% £4, 4% £4.50, 26% £5, 10%£ 5-7
Timing of sessions	Demand for morning, evening and later afternoon starts
NGS & MP's	53% Yes, 23% No - Remainder Not sure
Type of players	31% high level competitive bridge, 76% competitive club bridge, 10% only social bridge (note overlaps between 1st two groups)
Attendance at club	41% Yes, 39% Not sure, 20% No
Frequency of play @WBC	42% several times a week, 19% once a week, 10% occasionally,29% never
Type of session	100 in Regular, 32 Gentle, 19 both
Playing elsewhere	54 in EBU games, 60 another club on BBO, 87 casual with friends
Likely to play more often over winter?	82 Yes, 32 If NGS uploaded, 66 No, 26 Not sure
No of boards	12, 5%, 16 14%, 18 43%, 20 16%, 22 4%, 24 18%
Boards per round	20% 2 board rounds, 27% 3 board rounds, 53% No Pref
Other types of bridge	Individual 42, Swiss Pairs 60, Teams 53
Teams event on specific evening	Yes 57, No 29, Not sure 77

We then discussed the implications of the survey.

- Uploading results for NGS rankings:
The Committee discussed whether it was right for WBC to upload results to the EBU at this point in time. GC reported that there is a considerable amount of cheating

within BBO games which the EBU is working hard to address. Robots can skew the results.

DE reported that BBO data is not in the correct format for uploading session results to the EBU for NGS rankings to be updated. Shirley Pritchard had indicated to JM that she was willing to upload data to the EBU for any sessions the Club runs as she had been doing for Surrey events.

Action: SO to write to Shirley Pritchard to confirm that she knows how to upload the BBO results to the EBU.

The Committee was reluctant to ban kibbitzing. Members enjoy kibbitzing the WBC games and it adds to the accessibility and friendly feel of the Club. If players are concerned about the possibility of some cheating having occurred in a session then they are encouraged to contact the manager who will, in the first instance, deal with the complaint.

The Committee acknowledged that a slight majority (53%) of the members who replied to the survey would like their results uploaded for NGS ranking updates. However, whilst kibbitzing continues to be allowed at WBC it was agreed that results would not yet be uploaded. This will be reviewed as the EBU tries to tackle online cheating.

- **Session Timetable:**

The Committee agreed to consider making adjustments to the online sessions timetable. This will be discussed more fully at the next meeting.

The numbers at the Saturday morning gentle duplicate session have improved recently, as have the Tuesday and Thursday gentle duplicate sessions. All of these sessions will continue.

- **Price increase discussion:** The majority of members voted to increase online table money. However, an increase in income could push the club above the VAT threshold. (We are currently de-registered for VAT.) If the Club is able to re-open fully as a result of the CV 19 vaccination the threshold probably will be exceeded. At this stage there are too many uncertainties so it was agreed to retain the £3 table money for the remainder of the year but review at the next meeting as more information becomes available.

Action: JM will survey team members to ascertain whether they would prefer a set day and time for their teams' games or whether they prefer the flexibility of making their own arrangements.

- Calum Stewart has agreed to start an online competitive ladder from December 1st
- A charity event is planned for the new year

5. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Agreement has been reached with the EBU concerning the payment of UMS fees.
- Some trial sessions with four playing had taken place in the Club before the current restrictions. However, no face to face bridge is now allowed to take place at the Club under these restrictions. It is hoped that this will be able to start up again after the cessation of the latest restrictions. Before this can happen further risk assessments and protocols need to be drawn up to keep in line with Community Facilities Government Guidelines.

Action: AL agreed to draw up the documents required to enable the Club to re-open legally and to email the existing members' risk assessment to HH.

- Sponsorship for the current Teams' event, in the form of holiday vouchers, has been received from First for Bridge.
- The Committee agreed that there would be no online bridge on December 25th or January 1st. All other sessions over the holiday period would continue to run.
- Two new benches have been placed at the front of the Club to commemorate Ronald Bragman and Ranji Rangarajan.

6. FINANCE

- DE presented his budget v actual spreadsheet which will be updated and reviewed each month.
- Numbers at the online sessions in the last month have increased slightly to an average of 14 tables for duplicate sessions and 7/8 tables for gentle duplicate.
- The 20/21 budget is reviewed each month.
- There is a projected loss of £24,000 for 20/21.
- WBC deregistered from the VAT scheme in mid-July. WBC needs to remain outside the scheme for a year if it is to benefit.
- Survey results indicate that an increase in table money would be tolerated by members. However, an increase could push the Club above the VAT threshold. The Committee agreed to retain the table money at £3 for the rest of this year.
- Donations, always welcome, are not subject to VAT.

7. NEW 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.

Dominic Flint	Full
Kyoko Hashiume	Full
Noriko Horsley	Full
Wendy Marciano	Full
Pamela Reiss	Full

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Introduction of 300 Club – held over to December
- **Action:** GC was asked to ensure that all ex-staff had received their P60 documentation. (Done.)
- The following members are the winners of the ladders for 2019/2020 which ran until lockdown in mid-March:

Ladder	Winner
Bill Medd	Geoff Chapman
Don King	David Williams & Pramila Muthiah
Doreen Charteris	Bhuma Rangarajan
Jim Reynolds	Michele Lundquist
Malcolm Willcock	Geoff Oldfield
Norman Robson	Simon Cocheme
Peggy Griffin	Billie Stephens & Rosemary Dorey
Robert Pope	John Brierley

Congratulations to all the winners. The website has been updated to show this.

The meeting closed at 12.15

9. ITEMS CARRIED FORWARD

Cashless payment system: Gad

Dealing Machine: Gad

Fire Emergency Plan: Gad

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan: Gad

Advertising and Business Development: Denny

Charitable Status Working Group (CSWG):

Date of Next Meetings: Dec 9th, Jan 13th, Feb 10th, Mar 10th, Apr 14th, May 12th, Jun 9th
2021 AGM Date: June 30th