

# OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



**Annual General Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at 6.00 pm**  
*(by video conference)*

## **Draft Minutes**

**Attendees:** Julie Anderson (JA), Steven Bliss (SB), Steph Bliss (SJB), Ursula Bowler (UB) Minutes, Sue Burge (SMB) Chair, Sandra Devaney (SD), Liza Furnival (LF), Richard Sills (RS) and fifty members of the club.

### **1. Welcome to the OBC CIO AGM**

The chair welcomed and thanked the fifty-eight members of the club who joined the Zoom call. SMB asked for a brief silence to remember member, Ameena Ahmed, who had died in October 2020 and also to think of all those who had suffered through illness or isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **2. Apologies**

Nine apologies had been received.

### **3. Minutes of the last AGM 2nd December 2020**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as accurate, these will be sent to the Chair for signing.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman highlighted aspects of her written report which had been circulated to the membership. She thanked the many people who have helped her in her new role and have ensured the club has run smoothly. She said that the trustees are developing a strategic plan which will contain targets to be reported on each year at the AGM. She congratulated members, senior and junior, who had succeeded at high levels both nationally and internationally.

### **5. Annual Report and Accounts**

The report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 had been circulated to the membership. The chairman briefly reviewed the reports of the committees. SB thanked Sheila Parry and Paul Mason for their support with the accounts and summarised the financial position of the club. The budgets for the year have been set and, if achieved, the club will be able to fulfil its commitments for the coming year. Two questions were asked from the floor. The cash flow statement seemed inconsistent between 2020 and 2021 and a rogue figure will be amended before being submitted to the Charity Commission. The interest paid was also challenged. SB explained the interest rate had changed.

A member commented that the Education costs remained high despite reduced numbers of students taking the courses this year. It was pointed out that online education is labour-intensive, and staff costs do not reduce as much as income when compared to face to face teaching'. While any number of students can listen to the lectures, supervised practice is more difficult to manage hence the restriction in numbers at present.

## 6. Report of Independent Examiner

Peter Stevenson was unable to attend the AGM. - SB confirmed that Peter Stevenson was happy with the accounts and how they had been presented. Peter had thanked SB for pulling the accounts together so coherently.

## 7. Election of Trustees and Officers

The election of trustees and officers were voted on by Zoom poll. Two new trustees had been nominated, Peter Sherry as the Education Secretary and Paul Watson as the Conduct Officer. The appointment of trustees and officers was approved.

## 8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2021-2022

Peter Stevenson has agreed to be the Independent Examiner for 2021-2022. The membership approved this appointment.

## 9. Update of plans to return to Face to Face bridge

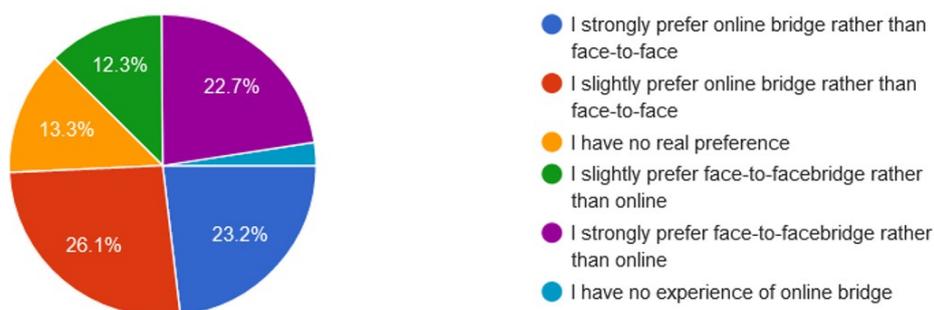
JA summarised the considerations made by the working party discussing the re-opening of the club. The group recommended that certain criteria should be met before returning to the club: there should be no government restrictions on indoor meetings, no requirement for people to be distanced by one metre and no necessity for face masks; the club must have appropriate insurance; and sufficient directors and scorers should be available to run face to face sessions. Although these criteria have been met, circumstances have changed since the working party met in May.

A survey was sent to the membership in July to seek their views on a return to face-to-face bridge.

**Results of the survey:** 204 members had responded (42.5% of 481 members). Views were mixed, but most of those who expressed a preference (49%) would prefer to continue playing on-line bridge in the current situation. The results are summarised in this pie chart.

What is your attitude to face-to-face bridge? (Please tick one box)

203 responses



Most prefer the platform of RealBridge or are happy to play on either BBO or RealBridge. Only 19% would rather use BBO.

JA stated that the rising number of cases of COVID-19 within Oxford and surrounding areas is concerning, so we have no immediate plans to reopen but hope we can offer limited face-to-face bridge in September particularly for those who have not engaged with online bridge. It is most important that anyone who is considering playing face-to-face bridge has had both doses of the vaccine as this will provide substantial protection against serious illness or hospitalisation. However despite vaccination, it is still possible to become ill or transmit the virus. Most transmission of the virus is

airborne. We will do our best to ensure good ventilation in the club by opening doors and windows. We are also exploring providing opening velux windows in the roof. It goes without saying that no-one with any viral illness, especially a “cold”, should play face-to-face bridge in the club.

LF outlined the logistics of returning to play face-to-face bridge. We hope to offer one or more hybrid sessions (a mix of face-to-face and on-line) and results will be combined. More boards will be played on-line than at present - probably 20. We will need sufficient numbers for the face-to-face session to be viable, places will have to be booked in advance. It may not be possible to find hosts for face-to-face sessions. The entry fee for on-line and face-to-face sessions will be equalised.

The trustees will review the options in August.

SMB thanked RS for undertaking the survey, JA for the work around re-opening and LF for the operational aspects required for re-opening.

## 10.

### Competition winners and award of cups

SMB announced the winners of the competitions for the year, cups were awarded virtually.

Beck Salver	Championship Pairs	Annabel Barnett & Amr El-Kashef
Winnie Ling	Mixed Pairs	Mary-Ann Sheehy & Tim Sheehy
Morrie Marsh	Novice Pairs	Gillian Fox & Thelma Spratt
Meltzer Trophy	Online knockout	Mary-Ann Sheehy & Tim Sheehy
Meltzer Plate	Online knockout	Jonathan Kay & Makiko Rogers
John Simpson	Men's Pairs	Joint winners: John Briggs & Peter Litchfield Amr El-Kashef & Martin Illingworth
Doreen Simpson	Ladies Pairs	Joint winners: Ursula Bowler & Pat Lewis Liza Furnival & Lorna Swadling
Rose Bowl	Championship Teams	Not played
Eve Stockwell Bowl	Swiss Teams	Not played
Thompson Trophy	Individual	Not played

**Roger Hughes Trophy 2020-2021:** For the most improved player - John Foord, whose NGS increased by 4.8% in the year ending in March 2021. With an honourable mention to Phil Chaundy whose NGS increased by 3.9% over the same period

### Ladder Winner 2020 - 2021:

LF announced the winners of the ladders for the year.

Monday morning	Amr El-Kashef
Tuesday morning (a pairs ladder)	Chris Bone & Juliette Riehl
Wednesday afternoon Gentle Duplicate	Joint winners: Ann Lee & John Foord
Wednesday evening pairs - Lew Braham Trophy	Denis Talbot
Thursday evening Gentle Duplicate	Sheila Parry
Friday morning	Bridget Watson

**11.**

**AOB**

A member asked if the club had considered widening the reach of on-line education and described the offering on BBO. The topic was discussed. Members of the education team explained that numbers of students are restricted because of the way we teach.

Pat Lewis gave a vote of thanks behalf of the membership to the Trustees and volunteers.

Gaynor Cooper thanked the trustees and officers for their work.

The meeting closed at 19:11