

OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11 JUNE 2007

DRAFT/MINUTES

1. Present:

Sandy Constable	President
Keith Sadler	Chairman
Mary-Ann Sheehy	Secretary
Lynne Hayes	Treasurer
Geoff Nicholas	League Secretary
Alison Nicolson	Youth/Education Secretary
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Nick Smith	Match Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity Secretary
Gordon Carroll	Abingdon
Andrew Lintott	Aylesbury
N. B. Perceval Price	Menagerie
Sandra Nicholson	Summertown
Krys Kazmierczak	Summertown
Esmé Alden	Oxford
Winnie Ling	Oxford
Peggy Manuel	Oxford
Frank Harris	Oxford
John P. Briggs	Oxford
Krishan Jalie	Oxford
Peter Baxter	Wallingford
Ina Merriman	Witney

2. Apologies for absence

Deidre Jalie
Erica Sheppard
Sandra Claridge
Marion Day
Clive Keep
Jean Squires
Richard Sills
Dinah Lintott

3. Approval of Minutes of the last AGM

These were approved subject to the 2nd 'OBC' in line 4 on page 3 being changed to 'OBA'.

4. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

5. Officers Reports

- **Chairman**

Keith reported that this was his last AGM. He had agreed to serve 3 years and had in fact done 4. He felt that it had been a successful period for Oxfordshire. Regretted that Management Committee meetings had not been so well attended and that it had been a struggle to increase participation in events and to fill posts. But both these had in fact been achieved. The numbers of members was bucking the trend and holding if not rising in number. The Congress and the Green Pointed event had become established events. There was a new Seniors competition. The County teams had had a very successful year: 2nd in the Dawes, 1st in the Porter and 2nd in the Markham. Most successful year for Oxfordshire ever. Many thanks to John Williams who had been a 'playing Captain' and a wonderful one too. Wessex League too had been successful with 5 Divisions. We are the envy of many counties. Big successes: Pachabo – 7th out of 30; Corwen: 5th out of 112. Menageries A 3rd in the Regional heat for Garden Cities. Krys Kazmierczak, Sandra Nicholson and Alistair Gidman had won the Swiss Teams at the Easter Festival (London) and John Briggs and Richard Sills and won the National Newcomers pairs. Many congratulations to all. The Congress due in a couple of weeks was much in need of participants particularly the Sandra Landy Trophy.

The Calendar remains full and strong; we have introduced Bridgemates which is still have slight teething problems, but promises to enhance the experience at table and the duplimated boards which have proved a huge success. There has now been established a Sunday junior bridge training sessions (Marriat Stevens and Alison Nicolson). 8 young are regulars. Finally Keith presented gifts to all Management Committee members (having already very generously provided drinks for all those attending the AGM).

- **Secretary:**

Mary-Ann said that she had nothing much to report. The year had gone pretty smoothly. There was to be a County Newsletter which would basically reflect what was going on in the clubs rather than country news. The idea was to give something to members to give the County Association some presence.

- **Treasurer**

Lynne talked the meeting through the Accounts. She explained that these had not yet been audited as Brian Emmett (appointed auditor) had left the county. Peter Stevenson had agreed to audit the 2006/7 accounts. (The meeting would have to approve this). The 2005/6 accounts were unaudited and indeed not sorted. There was a deficit of some £6K. This can be explained basically through the purchase of the Duplimate machine and boards and the Bridgemates. The cost of some of the local masterpoints had not yet been included (since these had not be registered). She reported that at the moment the cups are not insured. Should they be? Said to be worth £7000. She requested that a subcommittee be set up to work out the best and fairest way of granting expenses for various competitions: Tollemache, Pachabo, Corwen etc. Frank Harris wondered whether the numbers on Tuesday nights had gone up (thus increasing the income for the OBA). He believed there had been more participation from the OBC.

- **Membership Secretary**

Sandra had sent her apologies and also said that she did not wish to stand again as membership Secretary. Keith raised the Strategy proposal from the EBU which was to scrap membership fees for the EBU save for an initial £5 on joining. Thereafter the proposal is to charge a levy for every bridge game the members play.

- **Chief Tournament Director**

Special thanks to all the scorers and directors who had done so on Tuesday nights: Marion Day, Lynne Hayes, Krishan Jalie, Alistair Gidman, Peter Jordan, Graham Elliott and Rita Todd. Duplimate machine has been successful. Six clubs regularly use the Boards (48 sets now owned by the OBA). Bridgemate. Still some training issues but in general thought to be a success. Used about 75% of the time. Simultaneous Pairs, County Pairs, Swiss Pairs had all been well attended. Excellent that the Congress had been restarted. Tuesday night duplicate had changed slightly in that the first Tuesday of the month was to be Butler scored in attempt to attract more members. It was thought that since it was like playing teams and that teams night was generally the most popular, this might help.

- **Publicity Secretary**

Reported on the success of the Andrew Robson event and heralded the next one which is to be held on 24 April at 7.30. The first Newsletter (edited by Malcolm Simpson) to go out with Calendar and Prospectus. Thereafter probably by email. Special thanks to: Claridges, Clive Keep, Steve Noble, Alan Wilson and Krys for proof reading her copy.

- **Match Secretary**

Nick Smith thanked Esme for all the work she had done throughout the year providing teas. The County had indeed done well in the Dawes League. There was to be a new competition – inter regional. The winners of each regional competition ie Dawes, Porter, Markham in our region would compete with other equivalent winners. So this year our B team would be playing.

- **League Secretary**

Geoff reported that all three competitions had gone well. There had been a slight hold up with the Chester Cup which he hoped could be avoided in the future.

- **Education/Youth Secretary**

Alison reported that the Sunday bridge was going well and the juniors showed promise. Two pairs had attended a national junior competition and had come 3rd and 5th. She was pleased that there were 2 more schools at which bridge had been put on the curriculum. Keen to meet with Adult teachers and encourage learn and play which is the most effective form of teaching.

- **EBU Representatives**

Peter Baxter went into further detail about the proposed scrapping of the annual membership fee. Encouraged all to look at the EBU website and to write to Peter Stocken with comments. Main other discussion at the recent meeting was whether the EBU should continue to fund the international team. Very expensive and maybe they should go elsewhere for sponsorship.

6. Election of Officers

Chairman	No nominations
Secretary	Mary Ann Sheehy who stated that this was her final year.
Treasurer	Lynne Hayes
Chief Tournament Director	Stephen Brown
Match Secretary	Nick Smith
Tournament Secretary	Rita Todd
Membership Secretary	Maxine Henry
League Secretary	Geoff Nicholas
Publicity Officer	Brenda Harris
Master Points Secretary	Sandra Claridge
Education/Youth Secretary	Alison Nicolson
Selection Committee	Colin Jones, Andrew Lintott, Nick Smith, Denis Talbot
County captain	Chris Cooper

All elected nem con

7. President: Sandy standing down. This is not an elected post.

8. Presentation of Prizes

These were as follows and the presentation was made by Sandy Constable

Event	Players
Ladies' Pairs	Cathy Rowland and Mary-Ann Sheehy
Men's Pairs	Stuart McPhee and Alan Wilson
Swiss Pairs	Chris Cooper and Denis Talbot
Mixed Pairs	Jo Murray and Malcolm Currie
Fritch	Kathy and Denis Talbot
County Pairs 1 st	Dinah and Andrew Lintott
County Pairs 2 nd	Nick Smith and Tim Dickinson
County Pairs 3 rd	David and Jeremy Bygott
OBA Simultaneous Pairs 1 st	Sandra Nicholson & Krys Kazmierczak
OBA Simultaneous Pairs 2 nd	John Bowen & Graham Elliott
President's Cup	Nick Smith, Alan Wilson, Stuart McPhee and Rich
Chester Cup	Kathy & Denis Talbot, Nick Smith, Rob Proctor, C
Tuesday Teams Ladder	Nick Smith
Tuesday Pairs Ladder	Stuart McPhee
Tuesday Champ	Stuart McPhee and Nick Smith
Harwell Cup	Marian Day, Nick Perceval-Price, Rob Procter and Nick Smith
Sadler Salver	Geoff Nicholas and Krishan Jalie

Premiership	Nick Smith
Wessex Div 1	Menagerie B
Wessex Div 2	Abingdon A
Wessex Div 3	Thame B
Wessex Div 4	Wantage A
Wessex Div 5	Aylesbury Vale B

9. Items raised and already notified

- It was proposed to increase membership fee by £1 (from £3 to £4). Agreed
- It was proposed to appoint Peter Stevenson to audit the 2006/7 accounts. Agreed
- It was proposed that the Sub committee which will be set up to look at expenses also be authorised to appoint an auditor for the following years. Agreed.

10. New EBU Club Liaison Officer

Krys, as the new EBU Club Liaison Officer was invited to say a few words about his new role. This he did. For further details see the EBU Website.

11. Draft Calendar discussed and amendments duly made.

12. Sandra Nicholson agreed to edit the first Newsletter.

13. Finally Keith presented Sandy Constable with a memento and thanked him warmly for all his years as President. Stephen Brown then gave a fulsome speech in appreciation of all the work that Sandy had done over the years for the county.