

Agenda item 5
Oxfordshire Bridge Association Accounts 2008-09
Receipts and Payments 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

	2008/9			2007/8		
	Receipts	Payments	Net	Receipts	Payments	Net
Tuesday Duplicate / Capitation	6829.00	4426.10	2402.90	6474.00	4240.10	2233.90
Membership	2605.00	6.00	2599.00	2393.00	15.50	2377.50
Brochure / Newsletter	0.00	897.63	-897.63	0.00	895.33	-895.33
Committee Expenses, Directors Courses, etc	0.00	154.98	-154.98	0.00	480.56	-480.56
Gifts /Donations	0.00	15.16	-15.16	0.00	82.00	-82.00
Honours Board				0.00	443.21	-443.21
Trophies and Engraving	0.00	478.57	-478.57	0.00	564.75	-564.75
Computer Grant	0.00	225.00	-225.00	0.00	220.00	-220.00
Duplimate, Cards, Boards	0.00	38.00	-38.00	0.00	412.09	-412.09
Bridgemates						
Wessex League / Garden Cities	380.00	331.34	48.66	400.00	321.44	78.56
President's Cup / Pachabo	192.00	340.50	-148.50	192.00	336.10	-144.10
Chester Cup	128.00	89.50	38.50	96.00	88.17	7.83
Mens Pairs	195.50	149.56	45.94	240.00	172.08	67.92
Ladies Pairs	136.00	120.54	15.46	187.50	146.56	40.94
Mixed Pairs	352.50	254.12	98.38	299.00	261.92	37.08
Swiss Pairs	502.00	308.54	193.46	487.50	344.82	142.68
County Pairs / Corwen	120.00	1164.74	-1044.74	354.00	1225.65	-871.65
Beck Cup	306.00	327.17	-21.17	216.00	214.00	2.00
OBA Simultaneous Pairs	552.00	399.98	152.02	642.00	484.84	157.16
Harwell Cup	161.50	199.00	-37.50	195.00	205.56	-10.56
Oxford Times Cup	130.00	215.10	-85.10	256.00	236.76	19.24
Pro-Am	177.00	25.88	151.12	229.00	31.75	197.25
Seniors Pairs	1822.50	2274.62	-452.12	1508.50	1117.00	391.50
Golfprint	120.00	116.96	3.04	120.00	122.50	-2.50
Newcomers Pairs				0.00	33.24	-33.24
Dawes	720.00	1033.50	-313.50	144.00	400.62	-256.62
Tollemache	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.00	861.70	-861.70
Oxford Congress 2008	4474.00	3772.10	701.90	3941.70	3335.51	606.19
Green Point Event 2008	3641.00	2822.92	818.08	3247.55	2680.56	566.99
Oxford Congress 2009	0.00	207.00	-207.00	0.00	261.50	-261.50
Invitation Events	0.00	50.00	-50.00			
Interest/bank charges/adjustments	588.10	0.00	588.10	1620.59	1060.05	560.54
Junior Bridge	0.00	25.00	-25.00			
Robson Seminar	768.00	537.00	231.00	972.00	62.00	910.00
Miscellaneous other expenses						
				24215.3		
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	24900.10	21306.51	3593.59	4	21357.87	2857.47

Agenda item 6a

Oxfordshire Bridge Association County charge under EBU Pay to Play arrangements

Pay to Play (P2P) is with us from April 2010. The EBU have recently approved the rate for individual Pay to Play fees of 29p for all non-exempt sessions, with an annual cap of 150 sessions per individual. In addition, each county has the option to charge a P2P fee or an annual subscription.

In April 2009, the EBU issued a document entitled 'Club Terms of Affiliation' which stated in an appendix that the County element of Pay to Play for Oxfordshire would amount to '3p which will be confirmed after the AGM in June'. There is some confusion as to how the EBU sourced this information but, in the event, no decision on County Pay to Play fees was made at the AGM.

By way of background, a review of the EBU's document suggests that most counties intend to levy a charge on a P2P basis with rates from 0p to 10p, although a few counties have opted for an annual subscription in lieu of (or in one case in addition to) a P2P charge. For those counties charging on a per event basis, a simple average of the proposed rates is a little over 5p.

Based on the information we have on current income from County membership fees (expected to be £2,400 in 2009/10), and likely pay to play sessions of 9,600 tables per year across the County, maintaining our existing level of income would require a County P2P charge of between 6p and 7p.

At this meeting we have the option to confirm the County P2P for 2010/11 at 3p or to propose a different amount that reflects the economics as we see them. In principle, I prefer that the introduction of P2P is revenue neutral to the County in overall terms. However in view of the fact that the County's financial position is healthy and that some clubs may have made plans on the expectation that the County P2P would be 3p, I suggest the following –

That the County P2P charge be set at 3p for 2010/11 and at 6p for 2011/12

Once the new arrangements have settled down and there is real data on how the EBU changes have influenced table numbers across the County, I would anticipate that OBA would be able to confirm a longer term rate that would become effective from 2012/13.

John Briggs
November 2009

Agenda item 6c

County Newsletter

David Bygott, who has volunteered to take over the Editorship of the County Newsletter following Malcolm Simpson's resignation, has provided the following statement:

“As the committee may suspect after my recent letter to the Oxford Times, I am very much in favour of bridge content that is accessible and interesting and motivating to a broad range of players.

If I were editor of the County newsletter, I would aim to produce something that members would actually look forward to reading and which might stimulate some to more activity - taking part in an event, say, or discussing a hand with a partner.

The newsletter is an additional vehicle for OBA information and should include a puff for OBA events, I think - but in small doses (perhaps with a link to a web page with further info, or in the form of a monthly online 'Reminder'). I would need persuading that our membership is motivated by long lists. I doubt that the naming of dates and venues on its own will encourage more players to participate. How about, for example, a mini interview with "an ordinary club player" who dared to take part in a County event and enjoyed it? In one issue the player might be from Thame, in another issue from Witney, and so on. Perhaps an interviewee might offer up a hand they got right or got terribly wrong with a question to the reader: could you have done better? Or your regular partners? Ask them!

I believe that a 'county' newsletter should not be just like a club newsletter from Summertown, say, or Wallingford, just under a different name. A part of the newsletter should introduce readers to players from different clubs, maybe with "a hand that I'll always remember" or "one I'd love to forget". Not just the 'top' players. But something about them too. And about the way bridge (unlike golf or tennis) is so open that you can turn up and find yourself playing against a County pair or even a pair of internationals - and maybe win a hand off them! Bridge is about playing cards but it is also about people.”

Agenda item 6d

County Pairs Competition

These recommendations and proposals are from Clive Keep, who currently organises the entries.

Introduction

During 2008, John Slater (as chairman) set up an 'electronic working group' (EWG) to review various options within OBA management, including how various competitions were run. Among the competitions considered was the County Pairs event, which is one of the two Green Pointed competitions run by the OBA. The EWG made several recommendations and these are reproduced in the appendix to this document. Unfortunately, these recommendations do not appear to have been formally ratified/rejected at any committee meeting since the final EGP review was produced. Most of these recommendations need to be ratified or alternative arrangements agreed before the competition is organised following the outcome of the heats that have now been completed this year, although some can only be put in place for the 2010/11 competition.

In addition, there are several issues that need to be resolved that do not appear to have been discussed by the EWG. These will be discussed here and proposals are suggested that can either be accepted or rejected by the committee members at the December OBA meeting. Alternative proposals may also be put forward if members prefer – at the Chairman's discretion.

Proposals

Each proposal will now be presented, as follows:

*Notes: (1) those proposals that I feel can only be implemented in future competitions are marked with an *. (2) These proposals are not necessarily my personal preference. They are what I feel to be preferred by the majority of OBA Members/EWG.*

- 1) Every club should be encouraged to hold a heat, maybe shared with other club(s) if appropriate.
- 2) *Only members of those clubs involved will be permitted to play in these heats.
- 3) Any player will be entitled to play in a heat or heats managed by the OBA. (*Note: it is recommended that the OBA runs two heats, to provide flexibility in dates.*)
- 4) *At least one of these OBA heats will take place after all the club heats have been played.
- 5) Only paid-up members of the OBA will be allowed to participate in the competition.
- 6) Only paid-up members of the OBA who have nominated Oxfordshire as their County of Primary Allegiance (C of PA) will be allowed to participate in the competition.
- 7) Each heat must consist of at least 3 tables (i.e. six pairs) to be considered a viable heat. There must be at least four pairs entering the competition at each heat.
- 8) Pairs will be asked to indicate if they wish to opt out of the competition but hopefully will be encouraged not to do so; however, a player can only compete once (but can play as a non competitor in any heat).
- 9) The way heats are run will be at the discretion of the heat organiser but it is recommended that, if numbers permit (i.e. at least six pairs have entered the competition), the heat is divided into two sections, with pairs entering the competition playing against each other.

With less than six pairs in the competition an 'all play all' approach must be adopted with only one section being employed.

- 10) In the event of there being 80 or more pairs entered, two semi- finals of 20 pairs each will be held, with the top 10 pairs from each qualifying for the final. Entry to the semi-final will be a reflection (i.e. pro-rata) of the number of qualifying pairs taking part in each heat.
- 11) Reserves for the semi-final(s) (or the final if no semi-finals are being played) will make up numbers on an **overall** 'next in line' basis, with "ties" being resolved by percentages achieved in the heat.
- 12) In the event of an original total entry of 41-79 pairs, a single semi-final will be used to reduce the field to a 20 pair final.
- 13) This single semi-final should never have fewer than 30 pairs but apart from that should be for about half the original field save that it should contain an even number of pairs.
- 14) Should there be 40 pairs or less in the competition then no semi-finals will be held.
- 15) If there are two semi-finals then reserves for the final will be selected purely on percentages achieved at either semi-final.
- 16) Master points for the heats will be allocated as per the instructions in the EBU Master Point Handbook after consultation with the Chief Tournament Director.

It is recommended that those proposals that are agreed are included in the competition by-laws at the next revision.

Clive Keep
November 2009

Appendix

EWG proposals:

- i. Each club should hold a heat, perhaps shared and perhaps by holding a county night heat sponsored by closed clubs.**
- ii. Heats should always follow the normal club/county procedures with no special arrangements.**
- iii. Pairs will be asked to indicate if they wish to opt out of the county pairs and hopefully will not be encouraged so to do. However, a player can only compete once (but can play as a non competitor in a club heat).**
- iv. In the event of there being 80 or more pairs entered, two semi- finals of 20 pairs each will be held as at present. Entry to the semi-final should be a reflection of the numbers taking part at each club. Reserves will make up numbers on a club basis with "ties" being resolved by percentages. As pairs pull out, the numbers will be adjusted on a "current count" basis, essentially as at present.**
- v. In the event of an original total entry of 41-79 pairs, a single semi-final will be used to reduce the field to a 20 pair final. This should never have fewer than 30 pairs but apart from that should be for about half the original field save that it should contain an even number of pairs.**
- vi. The county pairs should be viewed as one of a number of representative competitions where actions in clubs determine the entry.**