

Oxfordshire Bridge Association: Reports for 2011 AGM

Chairman

As I indicated some while ago, I will stand down as your Chairman at this meeting. Whilst I have enjoyed my two years running OBA, the combination of additional work responsibilities and a new member of the family have made it impossible for me to devote the time necessary to carry out the job effectively. I am sorry that I will be unable to attend the meeting.

There are reports from each serving member of the management committee attached and I will not repeat their content. I do however wish to sincerely thank all of the committee for the extensive work that they undertake on your behalf. I would also like to thank David Bygott for the entertaining newsletter that he publishes for us and thank Kate Gould for taking over the duplicating activity, including installing the software that enables hand analysis to be included on the hand records. Subject to approval at the AGM, Robert Proctor has offered to take over the post of Chairman and he has my support. Robert will circulate a brief note concerning his candidature ahead of the AGM.

A member of Wallingford Bridge Club has raised a number of substantive issues for the AGM. I hope that they are accepted as valid motions and adequate time is given to their discussion. In view of my absence from the meeting, I would like to make brief comment –

- (a) Oxford Bridge Club where we have our headquarters and where most of our events take place is currently engaged on a consultation process with members and other stakeholders regarding several major property development options. You can read more on their website (www.oxfordshirebridgeclub.com/premises-docs). There are significant implications for the OBA. Oxford Bridge Club will hold an EGM to discuss the results of the consultation and their proposals on 20 July 2011.
- (b) I am confident that we will elect an education officer at the AGM who, together with the youth officer, will address opportunities for developing bridge in the county.
- (c) I welcome a discussion on the use of OBA funds, which in my view remain relatively modest, to help determine our future financial strategy. OBA's policy in recent years has been to operate at a small profit under the careful eye of our Treasurer. Although the receipts and payments records do not provide completely accurate matching of revenues and costs, it should be noted that the profit on Congress represents around 90% of the net surplus for 2010/2011.

Finally, I have indicated my willingness to serve as independent examiner on the accounts of OBA for future years.

John Briggs

Treasurer

Oxfordshire Bridge Association Balance Sheet 31 March 2011

	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-10
Balance brought forward	25600.32	21807.25
Surplus for the year	3031.79	3793.07
Balance carried forward	28632.11	25600.32

Represented by:

Cash in hand	0.00	0.00
Current bank account	3872.90	4242.23
Building society account	24759.21	21358.09
Total	28632.11	25600.32

Auditor's report to the members of Oxfordshire Bridge Association

In my opinion the information set out in the receipts and payments account for the year ended 31st March 2011 and the balance sheet set out above give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's finances for that year.

May 2011

Hon.
Auditor

(The Auditor has approved these accounts and will sign the report above at the AGM – Sec.)

Oxfordshire Bridge Association Accounts 2010-11
Receipts and Payments 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

	<u>2010/11</u>			<u>2009/10</u>		
	Receipts	Payments	Net	Receipts	Payments	Net
Tuesday Duplicate / Capitation	5887.50	4238.65	1648.85	6225.90	4319.95	1905.95
Membership	1436.18	0.00	1436.18	2909.00	132.00	2777.00
Brochure / Newsletter	0.00	723.19	-723.19	0.00	879.24	-879.24
Committee Expenses, Directors Courses, etc	0.00	299.32	-299.32	0.00	205.84	-205.84
Gifts /Donations	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Honours Board	0.00	475.88	-475.88	0.00	770.30	-770.30
Trophies and Engraving	0.00	787.75	-787.75	0.00	280.08	-280.08
Computer Grant	0.00	156.38	-156.38	0.00	195.53	-195.53
Duplimate, Cards, Boards	0.00	486.02	-486.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wessex League / Garden Cities	800.00	366.20	433.80	390.00	350.80	39.20
President's Cup / Pachabo	231.00	299.20	-68.20	128.00	292.40	-164.40
Chester Cup	168.00	92.80	75.20	112.00	89.60	22.40
Men's Pairs	187.00	226.00	-39.00	153.00	172.25	-19.25
Ladies' Pairs	221.00	253.00	-32.00	153.00	172.25	-19.25
Mixed Pairs	323.50	228.50	95.00	442.00	304.00	138.00
Swiss Pairs	467.50	378.00	89.50	493.00	308.50	184.50
County Pairs / Corwen	351.00	1275.10	-924.10	345.00	1113.70	-768.70
Beck Cup	471.00	338.50	132.50	223.00	309.50	-86.50
OBA Simultaneous Pairs	516.00	372.50	143.50	538.50	437.36	101.14
Harwell Cup	365.50	319.90	45.60	297.50	256.80	40.70
Oxford Times Cup	156.00	161.46	-5.46	0.00	11.50	-11.50
Pro-Am	136.00	24.60	111.40	138.00	18.75	119.25
Seniors Pairs	2588.00	2108.86	479.14	2367.50	1400.20	967.30
Golfprint	306.00	191.77	114.23	204.00	112.96	91.04
Newcomers' Pairs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dawes	714.00	1302.00	-588.00	328.00	740.00	-412.00
Tollemache	0.00	349.92	-349.92	0.00	320.00	-320.00
Oxford Congress 2010	8446.00	6372.44	2073.56	6720.50	4897.57	1822.93
Oxford Congress 2011	672.00	30.00	642.00	0.00	227.50	-227.50
Invitation Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	435.55	30.00	405.55	419.75	0.00	419.75
Junior Bridge	0.00	125.00	-125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Robson Seminar	962.00	746.00	216.00	132.00	608.00	-476.00
SURPLUS	25840.73	22808.94	3031.79	22719.65	18926.58	3793.07

Notes on Accounts for Oxford Bridge Association, 2010-2011

1. Tuesday Duplicate: numbers are down on previous years, by approximately one pair each week. Team nights continue to be popular. In the financial year beginning April 2012 the EBU will be collecting P2P from us for County nights and it will be necessary to increase the table money to cover this.
2. Membership income is half the previous year, the effect of replacing county subscription with 3p per game P2P. The increase in the County element of P2P to 6p which came into force in April 2011 should restore this income. The figure for 2012-2013 should also be set at 6p.
3. The County's duplimate machine needed repairs and renovation. It is currently working efficiently and there seems no immediate need to change.
4. Wessex League/President's Cup/Chester Cup. In the past masterpoints were paid for in arrears, but from April 2010 competitions need to be licensed by the EBU in advance and masterpoints are then free. The licences are more expensive than the previous arrangements and the fees for these competitions were increased to cover this extra cost. However, we have not yet paid for any of the 2010/11 licences and the 2011/12 accounts will include two years' charge. The rate is £10 per team of 8 - Wessex £400, and £5 per team of 4 - President's Cup £60, Chester Cup £35. The current profit shown for this year is therefore unrealistic.
5. Men's and Ladies' Pairs. There has been a small increase in numbers but these events continue to make a loss and the Management Committee is continuing to look at this.
6. County Pairs. This competition is run at a loss. This financial year there were two semi-finals.
7. Seniors' Pairs. Room hire for this event has been paid after the year-end in both of the last two years. Hence there was an untypically high profit shown in 2009/10. The figures for 2010/2011 show a drop in numbers, but the event covers its costs.
8. The Congress was run as a weekend event showing an increased profit, but note that our congress receipts in this year's accounts include approximately £650 in respect of the 2011 Congress.
9. The Management Committee has agreed to allow a budget of £1000 for Junior Bridge in the coming financial year.
10. All the costs and receipts for the Andrew Robson Seminar appear in the 2010/11 accounts, whereas 2009/10 figures included some costs relating to 2008/09.

Dinah Lintott

Secretary

During the year, I have responded on behalf of OBA to several messages from the EBU wishing to consult with Counties over various matters. These have included general governance and member representation within the EBU, the roles and responsibilities of shareholders, and the new Masterpoint and Licensing arrangements (due to come into effect in 2012). I also arranged for Tom Garrett, currently our regional representative on the National Club Committee, to come and talk to a Management Committee meeting about the proposals for regionalising the Club Committee structure.

Last summer we put forward the late Bill McCarthy for a Dimmie Fleming award (given by the EBU for services to the game at County and Club level), and were very pleased that he and his wife Freda were able to go to London in October 2010 to accept the award. As most of you know, Bill very sadly passed away in March this year and will be much missed, particularly by members of Thame and Aylesbury clubs. The County has sent a donation to Sobell House in his memory.

Whilst several of the clubs who had previously been part of OBA were either unwilling or unable to remain affiliated to the EBU after the introduction of P2P, we were delighted to receive an application during the year from Blewbury Bridge Club who wished to transfer their county of primary affiliation from Berks & Bucks to Oxfordshire. Having been assured that Berks & Bucks had no objection, this was formally approved by the Management Committee in March 2011.

Sandra Nicholson

Chief Tournament Director

I am pleased to report that although I now live 40 miles from Oxford I have been able to continue my volunteer work for the OBA, regularly playing in term time and directing the Men's, Ladies', Swiss Pairs, Pro-Am, both Heats of the County Pairs Semi-final, the County Pairs Final, Tuesday Championship Playoff and the Mixed Pairs. Many thanks to Krishan Jalie, Maryatt Stevens and Max Booker who directed the Harwell Cup, Beck Cup Final and Oxford Times events and to those who directed on a Tuesday night and have scored (especially Rob Dixon, Lynne Hayes, Kathy Talbot and others), and thanks to Stuart McPhee for transporting boards back and forth from the Oxford Bridge Club.

However, next year several of the events I directed this year are in the calendar during School Holidays and so I will not be able to direct any of the county Pairs nor Mixed Pairs nor Mens/Ladies Pairs and so I will be looking for more help to direct / score Sunday events. These changes are the result of Easter and the May bank holiday dates and the EBU Calendar and so are unavoidable. I am happy to continue and do a 30th consecutive year!, but need more support to direct some competitions.

The use of the OBA Website for all results has been successful following a few teething problems. One of the reasons for everything being on a central site was the ease for other people to update results; this has been facilitated but sometimes the link to the file has been delayed.

I have regularly (monthly) submitted Master Points to P2P for Tuesday, Sunday, Dawes League and Seniors events and these have all been registered with the EBU.

The OBA Simultaneous Pairs was successful although a few clubs did not run their heat for a variety of reasons, some linked to the bank holiday. The work on the OBA Brochure is progressing well but there is still a lot of work to do on the OBA Regulation and competition rules.

Stephen Brown

Tournament Secretary

Entries have been reasonable for recent events. The Congress has been particularly well supported and I am confident that we will be full for both days. I believe that the county should seriously consider looking for a larger venue for 2013 (I think that we have already booked Steventon for next year.)

Alan Grunwald

League Secretary

Firstly, very well done to all captains for getting their matches played within the time-frames. This is not always easy, especially as the weather can sometimes affect travel arrangements.

The following teams have done particularly well in the past season and are to be congratulated on their results:

Wessex League

	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners-up</u>
Division 1	Menagerie A	Oxford A (qualified for Garden Cities)
Division 2	University A	Aylesbury A
Division 3	Wantage A	Witney A
Division 4	Aylesbury B	Summertown B
Division 5	Witney B	Wallingford D

President's Cup

Well done to both teams that reached the final, which was won by Mike Robinson's team of: Mike Robinson, Rob Procter, Ian Angus, Nathan Piper and Dave Thomas.

David Bygott (capt), Jeremy Bygott, Sandra Claridge and John Deech were runners-up.

Chester Cup

Well done to the winners:

Peter Cherrett (captain), Peter Briggs, Eleanor Rice and Pauline Serby

Kathy Talbot, Denis Talbot, Rob Procter and Nick Smith were close runners-up.

Geoff Nicholas

Match Secretary

I have nothing special to report this year. The Oxfordshire county team has not been as successful as in recent years with all 3 teams finishing mid-table in the Midlands County League. I would like to thank Esme for all the work she has done throughout the year providing teas for our home matches.

Oxford A qualified to represent Oxfordshire in the Garden Cities regional finals after finishing second in the Wessex League behind an ineligible Menagerie team. They narrowly missed out on qualification to national final after leading at half time.

It has been noted that there has been a significant reduction in the number of invitations that OBA is receiving from other counties for their invitational events (equivalent to our Harwell Cup). Over the past 12 months I have only received 1 such invitation to send a team, but this was at very short notice and we were unable to field a team. The reasons for this reduction are currently being investigated.

Ian Angus_

Membership Secretary

On 26th May 2011 there were 1322 full members of OBA in the following categories:-

Bridge for All	122
Direct	7
EBUTA Teachers	19
P2P	1164
Partner Teachers	10

During the 2010-2011 Season, 49 EBU members with primary allegiance to a county other than Oxfordshire chose to become Dual Members of OBA. This enabled them to play in the OBA events and competitions that require participants to be members of OBA. The introduction of P2P resulted in some inconsistencies and inequities about who was asked to pay the annual subscription to OBA last year. As a result of the decision taken at the December 2010 Management Committee Meeting, only individuals belonging to an EBU-affiliated club who have also designated Oxfordshire as their primary county of allegiance can be members of OBA without paying the 'Dual' or 'Direct' member subscription of £4.

I would like to thank everyone on the Management Committee and the previous Membership Secretary, Maxine Henry, for their help and support in this, my first year as Membership Secretary.

Vicky Fleming

Publicity Officer

The Andrew Robson Seminar proved to be the highlight of 2011. All 72 places were sold 2 months before the event, with a waiting list cut off at 24!

In an endeavour to increase entries to the Oxford Times Cup for genuine novices, leaflets for this event were distributed at the Robson seminar. In addition leaflets were sent to all clubs and teachers were specifically targeted. Despite this, entry levels were abysmally low. In contrast, the Pro-Am, expertly run by Stephen Brown, was again well supported. With the election of a new Education Officer to fill a 4-year void, this competition together with the Oxford Times Cup should thrive.

I am hugely indebted to the expert scrutiny of my proof-readers for the Oxfordshire column in English Bridge: Steve Noble, Alan Wilson, Krys Kazmierczak and Sandra Nicholson. The number of words allowed is always restricted, which limits what we are able to report, but I am pleased that we were able to include a picture of the winners of the Beck Cup in the June issue.

Brenda Harris

EBU Shareholders

The number of EBU Shareholders' meetings held each year has now been reduced from three to two (one being the AGM in October, the other being held in April), to allow for the Chairmen's Conference introduced in 2010 to become a regular annual occurrence. All of our three shareholders attended the 2010 AGM and two of us were also at the meeting in April 2011.

At the AGM, it was reported that the number of clubs remaining affiliated, and the total number of player sessions, were broadly as expected but that income was lower than needed to sustain the organisation in the longer term, due partly to the the general downturn (affecting advertising in particular), and partly to the effects of inflation since the original calculation of the P2P figure. A proposal from the Treasurer to increase the national P2P figure from 29p to 32p was defeated and instead the figure has risen to 31p in 2011, although it was made clear that this does mean a further increase above inflation will be required in 2012.

The main item of discussion at the meeting in April was the future of Bridge Great Britain, which currently organises all home internationals, the Gold Cup and Silver Plate, and a number of Simultaneous Pairs events which are run on their behalf by ECATS. The EBU is dissatisfied with the current arrangements and has given notice of its intention to withdraw from BGB, which would effectively result in its dissolution. It is anticipated that alternative arrangements would be made to continue the home internationals and the Gold Cup and Silver Plate, and that the EBU would provide more Simultaneous Pairs events itself, using its own software.

In addition, a useful debate was held on the proposed changes to Masterpoint and Licensing arrangements, which resulted in helpful clarifications of a number of the proposals being put forward.

Brenda Harris, Sue Maxwell, Sandra Nicholson

Youth Officer

Junior Bridge in Oxford is progressing well. We are running the second set of lessons to help teachers start with bidding in schools.

I am currently in discussions with a number of teachers within schools to determine the best way to start a schools league in the area. I am also in discussions with people aiming to setup the junior bridge club at Wallingford. Once we have sorted out all of the admin required we will start part funding this bridge club on a trial basis.

In an aim to be able to track junior members in Oxfordshire I would like to propose that we scrap the OBA direct membership fee for juniors. Since students learning bridge in a school do not play in a registered bridge club, they never become members of the EBU. If we allow them to join the OBA for free every year, this means that we will have their contact details so can ensure they receive things from the EBU, and will also allow us to invite them to any events that we run in the future. This should not have any effect on income for the OBA since these people are not members at the moment.

Marryat Stevens

Webmaster

Overall the website has been running fairly smoothly, but there have been some problems recently caused by increased response time because of my absence from the area during the week. I believe that these difficulties will reduce once the Congress has passed and I no longer have entries to deal with, and would ask all concerned to notify me as soon as possible of any problems or additional requirements with the site.

Alan Grunwald

Congress Organiser

As at 24 May, bookings for the Oxfordshire Bridge Congress on 18/19 June at Steventon are going very well. Currently 69 pairs out of a possible 88 have booked for the Saturday and 36 teams out of a possible 44 for the Sunday. *(At the same date last year, 58 pairs and 32 teams had booked. By the end of May, bookings had increased to 87 pairs and 43 teams – Sec.)*

This year Martin Lee will be Stephen Brown's deputy tournament director and he is also providing all the bridge equipment, scoring and handouts.

Holly and Esme Alden will be the hosts on the Saturday.

All other relevant arrangements are under control.

Holly Kilpatrick