

Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Minutes of the meeting of the Management held on Thursday 18 January 2007

Minutes

1. Present

Keith Sadler	Chairman
Lynne Hayes	Treasurer
Mary-Ann Sheehy	Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity/EBU delegate
Alison Nicolson	Education
Humaira	Masterpoints
Valerie Welch	Abingdon
Krys Kazmierczak	Summertown
Sandra Nicholson	Summertown

2. Apologies

Sandy Constable
Stephen Brown
Nick Smith
Sandra Claridge
Geoff Nicholas
Erica Sheppard
Esme Alden
Peggy Manuell
Trevor Dawn
Maxine Henry
Bill Timms
Clive Keep
Bill McCarthy
Ina Merriman
Gordon Carroll

3. Minutes of previous meeting

These were approved subject to minor typographical amendments

4. Matters arising

Pro am

Brenda reported that OBC had held a pro am evening on Monday which had 16 tables. She was convinced that we would do much better to hold the county Pro Am event on a weekday rather than a Sunday. Pros more likely to show up. Agreed to raise the matter again at the next meeting

Bridgemate

Brenda raised the fact that the bridgemate is hardly used by OBA on a Tuesday. The reason for this is that only Stephen really knows how to use it and it was agreed that more people should be trained to use it. Keith was to discuss the matter with Stephen.

Camrose

A great success but slight worry as to why there had been a problem with helpers (i.e. shortage) when a number had offered help but had not been asked to do so.

5. Election of Education Officer
Alison Nicolson was elected Education Officer nem con
6. Reports from officers

a. Treasurer

Lynne gave a full account of the finances at the moment.

At first of January there was a balance of £15K (£6K less than 1 April 2006). She raised the issue of prices for events. The Dawes League events run at a loss of £66 per event (home). The increase in the teas to £3 is partly responsible. She will work out the costs of other events to see what will be needed to cover the costs. Some expenses paid this year (i.e. the Banbury Green Point event) really should have come out of last year's accounts. She also set out the costs that the County has paid towards the running of the Duplimate machine (£8634.39). The running costs will now come out of the amount charged to those who wish to use the duplimate boards. She also requested anyone giving her money from any event should give both the gross figure (i.e. income raised) and the expenses figure.

b. Secretary

Mary-Ann reported that she had received a phonecall on New Years Eve from a participant at the September GP event who had not yet received his Green Points. They have now been awarded. She had also received information about a Newcomers event to be held in March. Kathy Talbot is apparently running with this.

c. Match Secretary

Nick's written report merely pointed out that we were unlikely to win any of the 3 Dawes Leagues this year having just been hammered by Leicestershire (apart from the C team) Warwickshire still had a few

games in hand. He also pointed out that he had had difficulty in getting volunteers to participate in the invitation events from other counties.

d. EBU Shareholders

Brenda reported that she had attended the last meeting and that Peter Stocken was now the new EBU chairman. All minutes were now available on the EBU website. There had been a lot of complaints about the Brighton Congress. Membership was down. The Selection Committee not yet formed. Sue Maxwell has been contracted to deliver the Focus on Value initiative. Behavioural problems at the bridge table thought to be one reason for few members which Sally Bugden at the EBU is tackling. Kettering would be used for one more year and then there will be a move to Hinckley. No sub-committees have yet been elected. Direct debit would be introduced for membership fees and surcharge imposed on those not willing to use direct debit. Orange book announcements have raised problems and will be looked at again. Postage is a huge cost for the EBU and they are going to only email all minutes etc. They would also like to send the magazine English Bridge by email but this was proving an unpopular suggestion.

e. Publicity

Brenda reported that the Andrew Robson event was a sell-out and will cover its own costs. Hoping to expand to get more people to attend. (13 tables at the moment). Oxford Times cup not going so well. 18th March Novice event. Name of the winners will be on the Honours board and cup presented by the Editor of the Oxford Times. Brenda will be advertising it by posters.

f. Chester/President/Wessex

Geoff (in absentia) reported that there were no problems in any of the events except that in the Wessex League Bicester seems reluctant to play against itself. Keith pointed out that there was a suggestion that if two teams from the same club were in the same division it was incumbent upon them to play each other before playing anyone else in the division.

g. Education.

Alison set out a detailed plan for encouraging education. Currently she knows of 32 registered EBU teachers in Oxfordshire. 3 Unregistered. A lot are not active. She had a plan to help get the Bridge for All material at a lower cost for teachers to encourage them to take up teaching. Valerie Welch is planning to start a beginners club on Monday mornings in Abingdon. Sue Maxwells's success had been in part due to her focus on value. She points out that learners don't travel so important to have lots of teachers throughout the county. Alison will try to have a meeting with all teachers. Would the county be prepared to help by provided duplimate boards for classes. Answer yes. She and Marryat are

running bridge less for juniors on alternate Sundays at the OBC. Going to try to set up a Schools challenge.

h. Chairman

Keith reported that he had booked Bensons for both the June Congress and the September Greenpoint event. 23/24 June and 29 September.

Reminded everyone that a new Chairman is going to be needed in June.

7. AOB

Because Stephen Brown was absent we could not have the demonstration of the Duplimate Machine that had been proposed together with the breakdown of the costs. We can look forward to it at the next meeting.

Mary-Ann raised the issue of allowing last minute entrants in on OBA events (e.g. Ladies Pairs this year). She felt that it was very unfair on competitors when the movement is wrecked and that it ought to be made clear to Directors that they should ONLY allow late entrants in if it does not effect the movement.

It seems that Directors cost £50 for an event.