

**Notes of a meeting of the Management Committee held on
Thursday 11th December 2008 at Oxford Bridge Club**

Present: John Slater (JS) (Chair); Clive Keep (CK) (Minutes, ADBC); Alan Grunwald (AG) (Tournament Secretary); Kathy Talbot (KT) (OBC); Esme Alden (EA) (OBC); Lynne Hayes (LH) (Treasurer); Brenda Harris (BH) (Publicity Officer); Ian Van Maanen (IVM) (ADBC); Norman Gascoyne (NG) (WBC); Erica Shepherd (ES) (SummerT); Sandra Nicholson (SN) (SummerT); Krys Kazmierczak (KK) (SummerT).

1. Apologies for Absence: Gordon Carrol, Richard Sills (RS), John Briggs, Peter Baxter, Geoff Nicholas(GN), Alison Nicholson(AN), Maxine Henry(MH), Mary-Ann Sheehy (MAS)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2008

The minutes for the meeting held on 8th September 2008 were accepted subject to the following:-

- (a) item 2 (A) replace 'BUMP: Board for Universal Membership Board' with 'Universal Membership Project Board'.
- (b) item 2 (C) should be replaced with 'JS has had brief discussions with Sandra Claridge.'
- (c) item 3, first paragraph replace 'take play' with 'take place on'
- (d) item 4 (e) The second sentence should be replaced with 'There is a generic website for counties/clubs available.'

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- (1) The next meeting of the management committee will be held at Roke.
- (2) Sandra Claridge has got some volunteers for the Camrose weekend next year (Mar 6-8), though more would be welcome.
- (3) OBA pens have been acquired for heat winners of the County Pairs competition.
- (4) The men's and ladies' and swiss pairs took place in accordance with the prospectus.
- (5) Item 4 (h) had not been raised at the EBU meeting on 2nd October. It was agreed that this action should be carried forward to the next EBU shareholders meeting.
- (6) A 'Webmaster' replacement for Richard Lonsdale was still being sought – discussion with AG on a solution was still in progress.
- (7) **Seniors Competition:** Costs had been provided as requested and LH presented a financial summary sheet. It seems that the cost 'break even' point is 6 tables. Currently 5.5 tables are about the average, so the competition is running at a small loss. Part of the trouble was a "wynne win" rounding algorithm when there were half tables. It was agreed to keep the table money the same at £7.50 and to make the fee thereafter an agenda item at the next meeting in March.

Action: **OBA shareholders**

Action: **MAS**

4. Officer's reports.

Chairman: Nothing to report not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Treasurer: LH distributed her report. The current balance is ~£20k. Discussion turned to the recent GP event. The surplus resulting from it was reasonable and the number of entries had exceeded planning figures. KT said that a caterer suggested by her had not been contacted. It was felt that some more variety that would appeal to a wider set of people could be afforded in GP events next year. The OBA are only allowed two GP days – Action: **All** we need to appoint someone to organise the June 2009 event. The committee thanked Alison Nicholson for all her hard work in running the GP event so successfully. It was agreed to implement the OBA membership subscription at £4 next year, as agreed at the OBA AGM.

It was noted that LH, AN and MAS are not putting themselves forward for consideration in their current posts on the OBAMC next year. New volunteers will be needed.

Action: **All**

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Secretary: MAS had submitted a report to JS including relevant correspondence:

- (1) Richard Sills (RS) apologised for the OBA honours board still not being up to date.
- (2) OBC had requested that the bar rota and closing up the club after Tuesday nights needed 'tightening up'.
- (3) There doesn't seem to be any problem in using the 'old bar' room.

Chief Tournament Director: JS said that he had a verbal report from Stephen Bown (SB) that 'everything was OK'.

Membership Secretary: MAS had heard from MH that there were currently 747 paid up members, with 47 having dual membership with another county.

Tournament Secretary: AG said that many competitions had been completed satisfactorily. There was a low turn-out for the Men's and Ladies' Pairs. Oxford Times entries were up on last year, though there were some complaints about the OBC – both too hot and claustrophobic. It was agreed that a non-playing director was essential for the Swiss Pairs and the Men's/Ladies' Pairs. One possibility was to hold the Oxford Times event at more than one venue.

EBU Shareholders: BH reported that the latest minutes were on the EBU website. The retiring EBU chairman had said that he had not anticipated the level of abuse received about P2P from a few members. Tom Garret was in charge of 133 clubs in his 'membership committee' role. The first meeting was last night in Newbury. The attendance was poor (AG had attended). The EBU is to have its first Lady Chairman. The EBU wish to stop running the National Newcomer's Pairs – we need to emphasize that in Oxon it is an OBA not an OBC event.

Publicity Officer: BH reported that the December issue of the OBA Newsletter was up on the OBA noticeboard. This was being given to Club officers that come to Oxford on a Tuesday night – others will be posted. BH thanked SN for formatting the newsletter (edited by Malcolm Simpson). The Pro-Am is on Tuesday 24th January 2009.

Match Secretary: No report received.

President's/Chester/Wessex League Secretary: JS had received a report from GN that all leagues were progressing OK. There are two leagues for the Chester Cup – the two league winners will play for the trophy. GN suggested that maybe next year the top two in each league will enter the final stages. JS suggested the newly formed working party (WP) should look at it.

Action: **WP**

Education/Training Officer: JS reported that AN is not planning to continue next year and she had suggested that the job should be undertaken by two people with one concentrating on youth matters.

5. **Business to be dealt with:**

Agenda: Items were taken out of order in part to allow those having to leave early to comment on relevant matters.

Item (c) The committee expressed its thanks and gratitude to Sandra Claridge for her excellent service as a stakeholder over a number of years. JS had received the suggestion of Sue Maxwell to act in her place as an OBA delegate until the next AGM. Unless he gets further nominations from management committee members in the next two weeks, he would approach her.

Action: **JS, all**

Item (e) County SUB collection mechanism. It was agreed that we would use the P2P mechanism. It would have the same capping algorithms as the EBU one. The EBU needs to know pertinent amounts to collect through P2P by July 2009.

Item (a) Progress of Futures Working Party: The County Pairs needs 'fixing' and the WP are working on proposals – e.g. more CP Club heats; a County night heat for clubs such as Balliol and Menagerie; virtually always have one or two semifinals. CK suggested that eligibility of players for whom Oxfordshire is not their county of

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primary allegiance be discussed and a policy agreed – this was even more important for the President's Cup. Should there also be a county night National Pairs heat? It was also suggested that there were not enough county competitions where qualification was achieved at club level first. It was suggested that a non-playing TD maybe required for Mens's and Ladies' Pairs for as long as they run.

Item (b) The draft consitution: A draft had been produced by modifying the Gloucester version and was being edited with help from Nick PP and KT. JS asked members to read it and send any comments to him. It would then be put on the website and hopefully finally approved at the AGM and by the EBU, possibly in parallel. Action: **all**

Item (d) Side effect of P2P: P2P will affect the size of the management committee unless we change the numbers in the representation algorithm. It was agreed at the meeting to keep the process the same for the time being.

Item (f) EBU VAT decisions: these seemed to involve EBU not passing on decreases. JS to write to the EBU about the lack of reductions (an 'image' issue) and about the lack of transparency in the EBU financial balance sheet. Action: **JS**

6. AOB

IVM raised the issue of progress on P2P implementation, noting that the original P2P proposal lists several actions which were scheduled to have been completed by now. In an email to IVM, KK stated that a new project plan had been adopted in Aug 08. At the AGM of the EBU on 2 Oct, no report was presented on progress of the implementation or this new project plan. A vote was taken (3 in favour, 0 against) that this lack of information to the shareholders should be raised with the EBU. KK responded by saying that P2P was 'on track' - a software review was being made by the club committees on January 19th 2009 and contracts will be issued to Clubs in June 2009 for them to consider. The software is likely to be scorebridge. Action: **JS**

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on March 25th 2009 at Roke village hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 0905pm.

Clive Keep
18/12/08