

Oxfordshire Bridge Association

66th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday June 12th 2012 at the Oxford Bridge Club

MINUTES

Present:

Robert Procter	Chairman
Dinah Lintott	Treasurer
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Geoff Nicholas	League Secretary
Claire MacDonagh	Tournament Secretary
Ian Angus	Match Secretary
Vicky Fleming	Membership Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer/EBU Shareholder
Lynne Hayes	Trophies and Honours Boards
David Bygott	Newsletter Editor
Peter Finbow	Congress Organiser
Alan Wilson	EBU Shareholder/County Team Management Team Leader
Barbara Jordan	Social Team Leader

Esme Alden, Oxford
Chris Dawe, Oxford
John Fleming, Oxford
Frank Harris, Oxford
Krishan Jalie, Oxford
John Fleming, Oxford
Peter Briggs, Oxford
Sandra Claridge, Menagerie
Virginia Baines, Oxford
Peter Sherry, Oxford
Denis Talbot, Oxford
Pauline Wyman, Oxford
Andrew Lintott, Aylesbury
Peter Randall, Dual Member
Diana Thorne, Dual Member

Chris Kerr, Oxford
James Dow, University
Rob Dixon, Oxford
Alastair Gidman, Oxford
Nick Smith, Frilford
Steve Noble, University
John Deech, Oxford
Erica Sheppard, Summertown
Christopher Sheppard,
Summertown
Colin Jones, Wallingford
David Marsh, Witney
Peter Russell, Various
Richard Sills, Oxford
Kathy Talbot, Oxford

1. Apologies for Absence:

Evan Harris	President
Sandra Nicholson	Secretary/EBU Shareholder
Alan Grunwald	Internet Officer
Marryat Stevens	Youth Officer

Mike Fletcher, Youth and Duplicate Bridge Promotion Team Leader John Slater, Oxford	Francis Glassborow, Wallingford Andrea Smith Diane Coe, Witney Gillian Weatherley, Wallingford
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In the absence of the President, the Chairman chaired the meeting.
In the absence of the Secretary, the Membership Secretary took the minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes of 65th AGM

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports

(Written officers' reports were circulated with the Agenda and posted on the OBA website. Additional reports presented at the meeting are now included in an updated version of that document. Items minuted here are only those which were raised at the meeting itself.)

❖ **Chairman:** See report previously circulated.

The Chairman explained that, on returning from holiday shortly before the meeting, he regretted having to deal with numerous emails arising from disagreements between members of the OBA management teams, which in some cases had led to resignations, or threats of resignation, at very short notice. He urged everyone to treat each other with respect – we are all trying to do our best for the Association. Linked with this there were a significant number of emails concerning instances of inappropriate behaviour at the table on County Nights. He was aware that there are different perceptions of what constitutes appropriate behaviour but felt strongly that we play bridge as a hobby and we need to make it enjoyable for everyone and make them feel welcome. The following supportive message from Keith Sadler (a former OBA Chairman) was read to the meeting:-

'I have just looked through the reports for the AGM and I would like to record my absolute pleasure at seeing the OBA thrive as well as it clearly is. I would appreciate your congratulating the whole of the management committee for their dedication and work for the year. In particular, I believe that Rob has achieved a remarkable amount and his dedication and commitment is testament to the quality

of his chairmanship. It is wonderful to see the amount of energy and drive that is evident from across a whole range of officers and members. Brilliant and thanks!

Those present expressed their approval of these sentiments in the usual way.

- ❖ **Treasurer:** See report previously circulated.

The Treasurer explained that, as last year, although the list of receipts and payments was accurate, a historical accounting record of this nature produced some anomalies when comparing the accounts from year to year, because income and expenditure did not always occur in the same period as the activity to which they were related. The following specific points were made:-

- The EBU required the accounting date to be 31st March which caused some of the anomalies.
- The net profit could be regarded as £3000.
- Some Congress fees had been paid early so appeared in this year's accounts.

Chris Kerr asked if the same anomaly would occur should fees be paid early again next year. The Treasurer confirmed that this would be the case and referred to the impact of the EBU date set for submission of accounts.

The Chairman explained that in future the presentation of the accounts would be changed so that they reflected the Teams structure for the running of OBA. He circulated two additional sets of figures [*see appendix*], one showing the receipts and payments for the year analysed by team, and the other a profit and loss account including approximate adjustments in respect of items occurring in the "wrong" year. These were his own figures and had not been audited, but he believed they gave the correct picture.

The Treasurer put to the meeting that the P2P county contribution for Oxfordshire should remain at 6p. This was proposed by Alan Wilson, seconded by Stephen Brown and agreed nem.con.

The accounts were received by the meeting.

- ❖ **Secretary:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **EBU Shareholders:** See report previously circulated

5. Team Reports

- ❖ **Communications and Infrastructure:** See report previously circulated. The Chairman reported that he had been asked in an email communication, to justify the use of the 'all' in the phrase '...whilst still enjoying all the functionality available on Bridgewebs' in the final sentence of the report. The

Chairman explained that whilst the scoring process was not transferable as it currently stands, he had been assured that it would be technically possible to achieve a scoring system compatible with Bridgewebs should that be required.

The Publicity Officer apologised to the catering officer Esme Alden for the late notification of entry numbers for the Mixed Pairs Competition on June 10th.

The Newsletter Editor presented his report [*now included in the compendium of officers' reports for the year*], explaining how the Newsletter had developed since he had taken on the role of Editor in April 2010. Alan Wilson warmly congratulated him on producing Newsletters more frequently and on the increased interest in them that he had generated.

❖ **County Night and Competitions:** See report previously circulated.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the resignation of the County Night and Competitions team leader. He said that a volunteer to lead this team is now required.

He expressed the view that all the team would share with him in thanking the resigning leader for his hard work. The team's task has been to look at the various OBA competitions to see if they are appropriate and of the right format. The Chairman had expected the task to take much longer than had proved to be the case. The changes now need to be shared with the Management Committee and with clubs before the team moves forward with plans for implementation. It may be possible for changes to be finalised in time for inclusion in the forthcoming Competitions Brochure for the new season but consultation is essential.

The Chief Tournament Director presented his report [*now included in the compendium of officers' reports for the year*], thanking those who had helped him during the year. Stuart McPhee was also thanked for directing.

A question was asked about the apparent lack of progress in replacing the County Honours. It was explained by an OBC representative that the engraving had caused a delay but that, in due course, the new boards would be available.

❖ **County Team management:**

The chair of the County Team Management team presented his report [*now included in the compendium of officers' reports for the year*], describing the results achieved by the County Teams over the year - in particular the success of the A team which had won the Midland League for the first time anyone can remember, thanking those involved, and outlining some ideas for the future.

In response to a question from Kathy Talbot, Alan Wilson informed the meeting that the deadline for responses to his questionnaire was technically the date of

today's meeting but that responses received by the end of the week would be included.

- ❖ **Education and Improvers:** See report previously circulated.

The chairman explained that, following the resignation of the previous team leader, he was temporarily running this team. He thanked Gillian Weatherly for all the work that she had done in setting up the team.

A volunteer to take over the running of this team is now required.

- ❖ **Youth and Duplicate Bridge Promotion:** See report previously circulated which includes the Membership Secretary's report.

The Chairman noted that this team leader had helpfully included a list of the team members. He suggested that all reports should, in future, include such a list.

- ❖ **Social:** See report previously circulated.

The Social team leader reported that the Social Congress now had 12 tables and that she hoped that the numbers would increase over the next few days.

The Chairman explained that prior to P2P, OBA had around 600 members and that now there were 1300. The 700 new members were the target group for the Social Team.

The Social Team Leader explained that she was seeking help from clubs in order to match the activities to the membership. Such help need not be time consuming as her principal need was for information.

- ❖ **EBU Shareholders:** See report previously circulated.

- ❖ **Education Officer:** No report, as post currently vacant.

- ❖ **Youth Officer**

The Chairman congratulated Marryat Stevens and his colleagues on the excellent progress made during the year.

- ❖ **Internet Officer:** Nothing to report that had not been covered already.

6. Election of Officers

The Chief Tournament Director led the election of the Chairman, who then resumed his role as Chairman of the meeting.

All of those listed below stood unopposed and were elected nem.con.:

- ❖ Chairman: Robert Procter, prop. John Briggs, sec. Alastair Gidman
- ❖ Secretary: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Claire MacDonagh
- ❖ Treasurer: Dinah Lintott, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Brenda Harris – note the Treasurer was not seeking re-election as she wished to resign but she has agreed to remain in post until a successor can be found. The Chairman is seeking a replacement.
- ❖ Chief Tournament Director: Stephen Brown, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Andrew Lintott
- ❖ Assistant Chief Tournament Director (new post): Rob Dixon, , prop. Robert Procter, sec. Andrew Lintott
- ❖ Tournament Secretary: Claire MacDonagh, prop. Alan Wilson, sec. Lynne Hayes
- ❖ League Secretary: Geoff Nicholas, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Krishan Jalie
- ❖ Match Secretary: Ian Angus, prop. Steve Noble , sec. Peter Sherry
- ❖ Membership Secretary: Vicky Fleming, prop. Marion Sheppard, sec. Chris Dawe
- ❖ Publicity Officer: Brenda Harris, prop. Clodagh Jacobovics, sec. David Del Nevo
- ❖ EBU Shareholders: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Peter Sherry, sec. Stephen Brown
Brenda Harris, prop. Peter Sherry, sec. Stephen Brown
Alan Wilson, prop. Peter Sherry, sec. Stephen Brown
- ❖ Education Officer: Vacant (a proposal was made at the meeting but the person involved, who was not present, has since declined the role)
- ❖ Youth Officer: Marryat Stevens, prop. Alan Wilson, sec. Vicky Fleming
- ❖ Club Committee Representative: Peter Sherry, prop. Alan Wilson, sec. Brenda Harris
- ❖ Internet Officer: Alan Grunwald, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Dennis Talbot
- ❖ Website and Communications Officer (new post): Aleksander Lishkov, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Dennis Talbot
- ❖ County Pairs Secretary (now to be an ‘officer’ post) Clive Keep, prop. Geoff Nicholas, sec. Andrew Lintott
- ❖ Selection Committee:
No changes to the existing committee, who are: Chair Colin Jones, members Joe Clacey, Kathy Talbot, Andrew Lintott, Nick Smith, Alastair Gidman.
- ❖ Auditor: John Briggs, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Claire MacDonagh

6. Substantive items for discussion

(a) Proposed amendments to the County Constitution

The Chairman explained that since the introduction of P2P, the existing OBA constitution has not complied with EBU's approach to membership. He further explained that the proposed changes, provisionally approved by the EBU, were based on the EBU's model constitution. Since the changes had been discussed at previous Management Meetings and had been widely publicised he gave no further details but invited questions.

David Bygott sought clarification of the criteria for representing Oxfordshire. He was referred to section 4.14 which states that the OBA Competition Bylaws define Members who are eligible to represent Oxon in inter-county competitions and which explicitly states that Membership of OBA is not, in itself, sufficient qualification. The County Team Management Team would be addressing this issue as part of the review of the Bylaws (see below).

Peter Sherry proposed acceptance of the new constitution. His proposal was seconded by Sandra Claridge and passed by the meeting nem. con.

(b) Proposed amendments to the Competition Bylaws

The Competition Bylaws are referenced in the new constitution and therefore need to be amended. Kathy Talbot presented the following proposed eligibility criteria for County Competitions:

President's Cup: members of the Association who have Oxfordshire nominated as their county of primary allegiance and maintain this allegiance throughout the event.

County Pairs: members of the Association who have nominated Oxfordshire as their County of Primary Allegiance.

Wessex League: members of clubs affiliated to OBA; in the case of non-affiliated clubs, all players must be paid up members of the OBA unless they are playing in Division 5. Players need not have Oxfordshire nominated as their county of primary allegiance.

For progression to the Garden Cities, an eligible team comprises that representing an affiliated club.

Seniors: all members of the Association who are or who will be 55 years of age in the calendar year in which they are playing; plus younger members without standing.

Weekly duplicate/teams events: members of the Association, plus non-members of the Association, who must pay visitors' fees.

The Beck Cup: invited teams comprising members of the Association.

All other competitions: members of the Association.

The Chairman explained that these proposals were presented to the AGM for comment and that further consultation would follow with a view to incorporating the changes in the new season's Competitions Brochure, together with any other changes referred to in item 5 above that may have been agreed by then.

7. **Presentation of Prizes**

The prizes were presented as follows:

Event	Players
Ladies' Pairs	Eleanor Rice & Pauline Serby
Men's Pairs	Ron Quainton & Peter Russell
Swiss Pairs	Alan Wilson & Nick Smith
Mixed Pairs	Dave Dobson & Diana Nettleton
Fritch	Kathy & Denis Talbot
County Pairs 1 st	Andrea Smith & Geoff Nicholas
County Pairs 2 nd	Peter Litchfield & Andy King
County Pairs 3 rd	Clive Keep & Gillian Lonsdale
OBA Simultaneous Pairs 1 st	Stephen Rotherham & Paula Hopkinson
OBA Simultaneous Pairs 2 nd	Charmain Marples & Angwin Marples
President's Cup	Nick Smith, Alan Wilson, Dan MacIntosh, Stuart McPhee & Chris Cooper
Chester Cup	Mike Webley, Geoff Nicholas, Dinah Lintott, & Andrew Lintott
Tuesday Teams Ladder	Dinah Lintott, Andrew Lintott, Geoff Nicholas, Mike Webley
Tuesday Pairs Ladder	Ian & Val Constable
Tuesday Butler Pairs Ladder	Nick Smith & Alan Wilson
Tuesday Champ	Chris Wilson & John Williams
Harwell Cup	Peter Finbow, John Deech, Lorraine Jones & Peter Owen-Smith

Seniors Pairs	Geoff Nicholas & Krishan Jalie
Premiership	Nick Smith
Wessex Div 1	Wallingford A
Wessex Div 2	Banbury
Wessex Div 3	Oxford C
Wessex Div 4	Oxford D
Wessex Div 5	University B

Trophies and Prizes for the following events were presented
on the day of the tournament:

Event	Players
Pro/Am	Krishan Jalie & Ian Edwardes
Oxford Times	Claire MacDonagh & Ruth Kim
Beck Cup	Warwickshire: George Cuthbertson, Ian Handley, David Kenwood & Roger Bryant
Sandra Landy Trophy	Alison Withers Green & Robert Gasser
Oxford Congress June 2011 Championship Pairs	Geoff Nicholas & Debbie Roberts
Oxford Congress June 2011 Swiss Teams	Alan Wilson, Nick Smith, Dan Macintosh & Stuart McPhee

Appendix: additional financial information (see item 4)

	2011/12			2010/11		
	Receipts	Payments	Net	Receipts	Payments	Net
A. Oxfordshire Bridge Association Accounts 2011-12 Receipts and Payments 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 allocated by Team						
Promotion and Youth						
Membership	2954	333	2621	1436	0	1436
Promotion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth	0	1248	-1248	0	125	-125
Competitions/County Nights						
County Nights	6201	3713	2489	5888	4239	1649
Congress	13348	7398	5950	9118	6402	2716
Competitions	6355	7309	-954	7288	8650	-1363
Social	0	0	0	0	0	0
County Team	288	1034	-746	714	1544	-830
Education	0	0	0	962	746	216
Infrastructure/General	348	1179	-831	436	1103	-667
TOTALS	29493	22213	7280	25841	22809	3032

B. Oxfordshire Bridge Association Accounts 2011-12
Estimated Profit and Loss 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012
allocated by team, to correct period

	2011/12	2010/2011
Promotion and Youth		
Membership	2771	1586
Promotion	0	0
Youth	-1248	-125
Competitions/County Nights		
County Nights	2489	2349
Congress	2368	2074
Competitions	-1584	-1873
Social	0	0
County Team	-746	-830
Education	0	216
Infrastructure/General	-831	-667
TOTALS	3218	2730