

# Oxfordshire Bridge Association

## 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Tuesday June 11th 2013 at the Oxford Bridge Club

### MINUTES

**Present:**

Robert Procter	Chairman
Sandra Nicholson	Secretary/EBU Shareholder
Claire MacDonagh	Treasurer/Tournament Secretary
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Rob Dixon	Assistant Chief TD/Competitions Team Leader
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer/EBU Shareholder
Peter Sherry	Club Committee Representative
Lynne Hayes	Trophies and Honours Boards
David Bygott	Newsletter Editor
Peter Finbow	Congress Organiser
John Briggs	Independent Examiner of the Accounts
Alan Wilson	EBU Shareholder/County Team Management Team Leader
Barbara Jordan	Social Team Leader

Andrew Lintott, Aylesbury  
Dinah Lintott, Aylesbury  
Mike Webley, Aylesbury  
John Williams, Menagerie  
Stuart McPhee, Menagerie  
Sandy Constable, Oxford  
Esme Alden, Oxford  
Frank Harris, Oxford  
Matthew Covill, Oxford  
Hilde McIlvenna, Oxford  
Nick Dobree, Oxford  
Mary-Ann Sheehy, Oxford

Stuart Scott, Oxford  
Carol Benzie, Oxford  
Richard Sills, Oxford  
Kathy Talbot, Oxford  
Lorraine Jones,  
Summertown/Oxford  
Joanna Donkin,  
Summertown/Oxford  
Lorna Swadling,  
Summertown/Oxford  
David Marsh, Witney  
Peter Russell, Various

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Evan Harris, President	Norman Gascoyne
Geoff Nicholas, League Secretary (outgoing)	Robert Gasser
Vicky Fleming, Education Officer (outgoing)	Alastair Gidman
Emily Middleton, Membership Secretary	Francis Glassborow
Ian Angus, Match Secretary	Colin Jones
Clive Keep, County Pairs Secretary	Peter Jordan
Mike Fletcher, Youth and Duplicate Bridge Promotion Team Leader	Christopher Sheppard
Sandra Claridge	Erica Sheppard
Chris Dawe	Peter Stevenson
Mike Dobson	Denis Talbot
John Fleming	Hugh Thomson
	Gillian Weatherley
	Matthew Wilkinson

In the absence of the President, the Chairman chaired the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes of 66<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The minutes of the previous year's AGM 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 said that he was pleased to be able to say that both the revision of the Competition By-Laws, and the new website, were almost ready. The website was designed so that different areas could be updated by different people and it would therefore take a little while for it to be completely updated immediately after going live.

He noted that a Management Committee meeting had been scheduled to take place on Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> (not July 19<sup>th</sup> as stated in the brochure). However, he had decided to use this date as the opportunity to hold an open meeting when any OBA member would be welcome to attend and discuss the issues raised in his report, together with any other ideas on the general direction and objectives that the Association should be pursuing. The venue for this meeting would be announced nearer the time.

He particularly wanted to thank everyone who had contributed to the work of the Association over the course of the year. Unfortunately the OBA "social congress" had had to be cancelled this year through lack of entries, but he hoped that clubs would support the new initiative of organising a "social league".

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

The following specific points were made:-

- The Treasurer had been unaware, when compiling the accounts, that the Midlands and Dawes were two different names for the same inter-county league events. This would be corrected in future.
- The item listed as “membership costs” represented the EBU charges paid by the County.
- The Congress described as “2013” was in fact the one that had taken place in June 2012. It was anticipated that this year’s Congress would be at least as profitable as last year’s since additional entries would more than cover the cost of the new, larger venue.
- Arrangements were in hand to update the signatories for the Building Society account and the Treasurer was also investigating the possibility of internet banking.

John Briggs, in his role as independent examiner of the accounts, explained that the accounts this year had been adjusted to an accruals basis, making it easier to match costs and revenues for each activity.

He was pleased to see that the number of cash transactions without invoices had substantially reduced, which allowed better control and documentation of expenditure. This would also be an advantage if HMRC were ever to take an interest in payments made to individuals. It was strongly recommended that anyone providing services to the Association should claim reimbursement by invoice.

Overall he was happy with the state of the accounts and invited the meeting to thank the current and previous Treasurers for all the work done on their behalf, which was recognised in the usual way.

Stephen Brown proposed, and Alan Wilson seconded, a motion that the accounts should be accepted: this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman then put to the meeting that the P2P county contribution for Oxfordshire should remain at 6p in 2014/15. His proposal was seconded by Lorna Swadling and carried nem.con.

- ❖ **Secretary:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **EBU Shareholders:** See report previously circulated, together with the EBU’s new 5-year plan, copies of which were available at the meeting and which has now been published in *English Bridge*. The Secretary said she felt that considerable progress had been made in the last 5 years, part of which was a definite change of direction in favour of “ordinary” members.

## 5. Team Reports

- ❖ **Communications and Infrastructure:** See report previous circulated.

The Club Committee Representative said since taking on the role, he had attended two meetings of the Midlands Regional Club Committee. He hoped to improve communications with the county's affiliated clubs in order to represent their views more effectively to the EBU.

The Newsletter Editor presented his report [*now included in the compendium of officers' reports for the year*], describing the progress made with the newsletter over the past year. He added that he would like to see more effort made to improve the profile of bridge generally in the county and to get news and photographs into the local press.

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

The Chief Tournament Director and Team Leader presented brief reports [*now included in the compendium of officers' reports for the year*], thanking those who had helped with County Night and other events during the year, and expressing pleasure at the good level of entries to most competitions, including the new Swiss Teams events. The advent of Blue Pointed events at both county and club level had been well received and the new format for the County Pairs semi-finals had worked well and would be repeated. There was however only a small entry for the Oxford Times Cup, and only one Oxfordshire team had played in the Beck Cup and one pair in the Corwen. It was hoped that this could be improved on for the future.

The Chairman added that he was disappointed to see that OBC still had cause to be unhappy about the way the premises were left after some County events. He hoped that those members of OBC who participated in such events would help to educate others in this respect.

A short discussion was held about the low numbers attending the monthly Tuesday Pivot Teams event. Opinions were divided as to the reasons for this and it was agreed that a review of regular Tuesday evening players should be conducted.

The Tournament Secretary reported that entries for the Congress currently stood at over 100 pairs and 45 teams.

Lynne Hayes explained that she was waiting for OBC to provide the detailed costs of their new honours boards before deciding exactly how to proceed with the new OBA boards. In the meanwhile, Helen Lawton-Smith had very kindly agreed to look after the old boards so that they could be removed from OBC. LH added that some of the trophies were being recycled to account for recent changes in the schedule of competitions.

- ❖ **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*], supporting Nick Smith's ideas for changes in the working of the selection committee and hoping that county team players would continue to support greater involvement with the rest of the county's membership.

David Bygott expressed the view that care should be taken over any changes to the nomination process for the county selection committee since it was important to avoid creating a “clique” of selectors. He felt that asking clubs to nominate members was the most inclusive method, even if not all clubs wanted to take advantage of the facility. Dinah Lintott suggested that it might be possible to go by area rather than individual club.

To encourage more clubs to engage with the county, Stuart McPhee suggested a one-day event where each club could enter a team. SN added that more clubs might be encouraged to compete with each other, within the regions, along the lines of the “BanBic” Cup which had been discussed at the meeting held earlier in the year with the northern area clubs. Both these ideas were referred to the Competitions team for further investigation.

❖ **Education and Improvers**

Although no report was available, the Chairman thanked Vicky Fleming who had made progress in updating information in the teachers’ area of the county website. A replacement Education Officer was once more required, together with a team leader for this group.

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

The meeting noted a welcome overall increase in membership numbers, due partly to the recruitment of more junior members and partly to the affiliation of the Abbey Smith Bridge Club which had joined OBA during the year. It was also noted that the local youth bridge initiative now had its own website, bridge4schools. Despite the absence of an individual willing to take on the formal role of Youth Officer, much excellent work was continuing in this area, in co-operation with Berks & Bucks.

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

The Team Leader was congratulated on doing an excellent job, particularly in respect of the very popular and well organised Café Bridge event in Henley. She said that she had been disappointed with the lack of support for this year’s proposed Social Congress but was hoping that the introduction of a Social Teams league would help people from different clubs to get to know one another.

## 6. Election of Officers

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

- ❖ Chairman: Robert Procter, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Aleksandar Lishkov
- ❖ Secretary: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Peter Sherry, sec. Brenda Harris
- ❖ Treasurer: Claire MacDonagh, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Aleksandar Lishkov
- ❖ Chief Tournament Director: Stephen Brown, prop. Mary-Ann Sheehy, sec. Lynne Hayes
- ❖ Assistant Chief Tournament Director : Rob Dixon, , prop. Stephen Brown, sec. Alan Wilson
- ❖ Tournament Secretary: Claire MacDonagh, prop. Lorna Swadling, sec. Esme Alden
- ❖ Wessex League Secretary: Hugh Thomson, prop. Kathy Talbot, sec. Peter Finbow
- ❖ President's and Chester Cup Secretary: Mike Dobson, prop. Mike Webley, sec. Rob Dixon
- ❖ Match Secretary: Ian Angus, prop. Alan Wilson, sec. Stuart McPhee
- ❖ Membership Secretary: Emily Middleton, prop. Hilde McIlvenna, sec. Mary-Ann Sheehy
- ❖ Publicity Officer: Brenda Harris, prop. Christopher Sheppard, sec. Peter Sherry
- ❖ EBU Shareholders: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Erica Sheppard, sec. Robert Gasser  
Brenda Harris, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Alan Wilson  
Sandra Claridge, prop. Stephen Brown, sec. Peter Sherry
- ❖ Education Officer: Vacant
- ❖ Youth Officer: Vacant
- ❖ Club Committee Representative: Peter Sherry, prop. Brenda Harris, sec. Alan Wilson
- ❖ Website and Communications Officer: Aleksander Lishkov, prop. David Bygott, sec. Carol Benzie
- ❖ Independent examiner of the accounts: John Briggs, prop. Claire MacDonagh, sec. Robert Procter
- ❖ Selection Committee:  
Chair Nick Smith, members Kathy Talbot, Peter Finbow, Mike Webley, John Williams, plus Wallingford rep. TBA.

## 6. Substantive items for discussion

None were raised.

## 7. Presentation of Prizes

The prizes were presented as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Players</b>
Swiss Pairs	Gillian Lonsdale & Nigel Wilkes
Mixed Pairs	Christopher Whitehouse & Mary-Ann Sheehy
County Pairs 1 <sup>st</sup>	Nigel Wilkes and Mike Webley.
County Pairs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Denis Talbot & Kathy Talbot
County Pairs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Bygott & Jeremy Bygott
President's Cup	Chris Cooper, Stuart McPhee, Lorna Swadling, Alistair Gidman, Ian Angus & Ed Jones
Chester Cup	Mike Brown, Clive Keep, Gillian Lonsdale, Nigel Wilkes & John Slater
Tuesday Teams Ladder	Robert Procter
Tuesday Pairs Ladder	John Slater
Swiss Teams (Harwell Cup)	Stephen Brown, John Deech, John Williams & Chris Wilson
Seniors Pairs	Dale Thomas & Keith Goswell
Premiership	Nigel Wilkes
Wessex Div 1	Wallingford A
Wessex Div 2	Oxford C
Wessex Div 3	Oxford D
Wessex Div 4	Aylesbury Aces
Wessex Div 5	Aylesbury Vale

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

<b>Event</b>	<b>Players</b>
Friendly Swiss Teams	Robert Procter, Peter Finbow, Norman Gascoyne & Adrian Lambe
Pro/Am	Stephen Brown & Veronica Wilson
Oxford Times	Jennifer Marsden & Isobel Pack
Beck Cup	Hampshire: Pauline Serby, John Moore, James Clark & Bill Taylor
Sandra Landy Trophy	Gary Diamond & Russell Tenser
Oxford Congress June 2012 Championship Pairs	Cathy Rowland & Aleksandar Lishkov
Oxford Congress June 2012 Swiss Teams	Matthew Tan, Heather Tan, Richard Millard & Sue Millard