

Oxfordshire Bridge Association

68th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday June 10th 2014 at the Oxford Bridge Club

MINUTES

Present:

Evan Harris	President
Sandra Nicholson	Secretary/EBU Shareholder
Claire MacDonagh	Treasurer/Tournament Secretary
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Rob Dixon	Assistant Chief TD
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer
Hugh Thomson	Wessex League Secretary
Peter Sherry	Club Committee Representative (retiring)
Alan Wilson	EBU Shareholder/County Team Management Team Leader
Sandra Claridge	EBU Shareholder
David Bygott	Newsletter Editor
Chris Dawe	County Pairs Organiser
Peter Finbow	Congress Organiser
Lynne Hayes	Trophies and Honours Boards
John Briggs	Independent Examiner of the Accounts

Peter Litchfield, Abingdon
John Fleming, Abingdon/Oxford
Andrew Lintott, Aylesbury
Dinah Lintott, Aylesbury
Geoff Nicholas, Aylesbury
Michael Allen, Blewbury
Roy East, Blewbury
John Williams, Menagerie
Chris Wilson, Menagerie
Christopher Whitehouse,
Menagerie/Oxford
Esme Alden, Oxford
Peter Briggs, Oxford
Sandy Constable, Oxford
Ashley Cooper, Oxford
Matthew Covill, Oxford

John Deech, Oxford
Chris Kerr, Oxford
Hilde McIlvenna, Oxford
Cathy Rowland, Oxford
Miriam Seaver, Oxford
Richard Sills, Oxford
Kathy Talbot, Oxford
Bill Timms, Oxford
Irina Woods, Oxford
Lorraine Jones,
Summertown/Oxford
Christopher Sheppard, Summertown
Erica Sheppard, Summertown
Ian Constable
Val Constable

1. Apologies for Absence:

Robert Procter, Chairman
Ian Angus, Match Secretary
Mike Fletcher, Youth and Duplicate
Bridge Promotion Team Leader
Diana Nettleton, County Night and
Competitions Team Leader/County
Night Co-ordinator
Barbara Jordan, Social Team Leader
(retiring)
Nick Smith, Chair of Selection
Committee

Diane Coe
Robert Gasser
Frank Harris
Krys Kazmierczak
Pat Lewis
Jonathan Price
Stuart Scott
Sue Smith
Denis Talbot
Matthew Wilkinson

2. Approval of Minutes of 67th AGM

The minutes of the previous year's AGM were unanimously approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's report

The Chairman's report had been circulated with the Agenda and posted on the OBA website. No questions were raised and the report was received and accepted.

5. Treasurer's and Auditor's report and accounts for the year 2013/14

The Treasurer's report, together with that of the Auditor (independent examiner of the accounts) had been circulated with the Agenda and posted on the OBA website.

The Treasurer commented that although there had been a significant drop in income from Tuesday evenings and from competitions entries, this had been mostly offset by a reduction in costs in other areas, leading to only a slight fall in the overall surplus compared with the previous year.

Peter Briggs queried the fact that County Nights were shown in the accounts as making a profit whereas in another report it had been stated that the County was subsidising these sessions. The Treasurer replied that during the second half of the accounting year there had been a definite fall in attendance and therefore in income from Tuesday evenings, but that attendance now appeared to be increasing again following the changes introduced at the beginning of May and it was hoped that this would redress the situation.

David Bygott asked whether the fact that several competitions such as the Men's and Ladies' Pairs, and the Swiss Teams, had not been run, was a contributing factor. The Treasurer replied that most competitions were run at a loss (with the exception of the Seniors which this year had generated a surplus) and therefore running more of them would make little difference to the overall picture.

John Briggs, in his role as independent examiner of the accounts, said that his inspection showed that the accounts had been kept very accurately and that the Treasurer had done a good job. He invited the meeting to thank her for all the work she had done on their behalf, which was recognised in the usual way.

The accounts were received and accepted nem. con., as was the recommendation that the County P2P figure should remain unchanged at 6p for the year 2015/16.

6. Other reports

Written reports from other officers and team leaders had been circulated with the Agenda and posted on the OBA website. Items noted below are only those additional points raised at the meeting itself.

- ❖ **County Night and Competitions:** Peter Briggs noted that the fourth Tuesday of the month was classified by the Chairman as a dual event owned both by the County and by an individual club, although in his view this was not possible. He understood the matter was to be debated at the next Management Committee meeting and urged all delegates with an interest in the outcome to attend the meeting.
Peter Litchfield expressed concern about the content of a recent “chairman’s blog” which seemed to threaten that those who did not play on County nights would not be considered for the County team. If this was to be the new policy then it should be clearly stated. Otherwise he applauded the new scheme and wished it success.
- ❖ **County Team Management:** Alan Wilson drew attention to the fact that a new scheme for taking account of Tuesday evening results in the selection of County Team players, agreed between the County Team Management team and the County Night and Competitions team, had been circulated earlier that day. He stressed that the intention was to provide a positive incentive to participate rather than a threat of exclusion for non-participation.
- ❖ **Education:** On behalf of the new Education Officer Jonathan Price, who was unable to be present, David Bygott drew attention to the new “Annual Oxfordshire Bridge Teaching Conference” which was scheduled to take place on the morning of Saturday 12th July.

All reports from officers and team leaders were received and accepted.

7. Election of officers and appointment of auditor

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

- ❖ Chairman: Robert Procter, prop. Sandra Claridge, sec. Adam Humphreys
- ❖ Secretary: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Sandra Claridge, sec. Steve Noble
- ❖ Treasurer: Claire MacDonagh, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Peter Sherry
- ❖ Independent examiner of the accounts: Chris Wilson, prop. Kathy Talbot, sec. John Deech
- ❖ EBU Shareholders: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Claire Macdonagh, sec. Peter Sherry
Alan Wilson, prop. Kathy Talbot, sec. Peter Finbow
Sandra Claridge, prop. Adam Humphreys, sec. Steve Noble
- ❖ Chief Tournament Director: Stephen Brown, prop. Diana Nettleton, sec. Sandra Claridge
- ❖ Ass't Chief Tournament Director : Rob Dixon, , prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Richard Sills
- ❖ Tournament Secretary: Claire MacDonagh, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Peter Sherry
- ❖ Wessex League Secretary: Hugh Thomson, prop. Peter Briggs, sec. Stephen Brown
- ❖ President's and Chester Cup Secretary: Sandra Claridge, prop. Stephen Brown, sec. Diana Nettleton
- ❖ Match Secretary: Ian Angus, prop. Chris Dawe, sec. Alan Wilson
- ❖ Membership Secretary: Vacant
- ❖ Publicity Officer: Vacant
- ❖ Education Officer: Jonathan Price, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Sandra Nicholson
- ❖ Youth Officer: Vacant
- ❖ Website and Communications Officer: Aleksander Lishkov, prop. Chris Dawe, sec. Sandra Nicholson
- ❖ Selection Committee:
Chair Nick Smith, members Chris Cooper (county captain), Kathy Talbot, Peter Finbow, John Williams, plus Rob Dixon TBA

Anyone interested in filling any of the vacant posts was asked to make themselves known to the Secretary as soon as possible. Alan Wilson added that the Selection Committee would welcome additional members nominated by a wider range of clubs.

6. Substantive items for discussion

None were raised.

7. Presentation of Prizes

OBA Distinguished Service Awards, recognising a significant contribution to the development of duplicate bridge in Oxfordshire over a sustained period of time, were presented to Esmé Alden and Roy East, nominated respectively by Menagerie and Blewbury bridge clubs (see citations circulated with the agenda and posted on the OBA website).

Other prizes were presented as follows:

Event	Players
Swiss Pairs	Geoff Nicholas & Debbie Roberts
Mixed Pairs	John Slater and Helen Lawton Smith
County Pairs 1st	Aleksandar Lishkov & Cathy Rowland
County Pairs 2nd	Geoff Nicholas & Debbie Roberts
County Pairs 3rd	Dave Dobson & Brian Wright
President's Cup	Stephen Brown, Sandra Claridge, John Williams & Chris Wilson
Chester Cup	Kathy Talbot, Denis Talbot, Robert Procter & Nick Smith
Tuesday Teams Ladder	Dinah Lintott, Andrew Lintott & John Williams
Tuesday Pairs Ladder	Alan Wilson
Seniors Pairs	Dale Thomas & Keith Goswell
Premiership	Aleksandar Lishkov
Wessex League Div 1	Wallingford A
Wessex League Div 2	Banbury
Wessex League Div 3	Aylesbury C
Wessex League Div 4	Blewbury
Wessex League Div 5	Wantage B

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

Event	Players
Pro/Am	Stephen Brown & Veronica Wilson
Beck Cup	Warwickshire: Simon Creasey, Ian Handley, Roger Bryant & Darren Evetts
Sandra Landy Trophy	Pat Lewis & Miriam Seaver
Oxford Congress June 2013 Championship Pairs	Derek & Celia Oram
Oxford Congress June 2013 Swiss Teams	Charles King-Farlow, Bruce Leslie, Jane Davies & Stephen Gore