

Oxfordshire Bridge Association
Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting

Thursday 20th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Horspath Hub

PRESENT:

John Slater (JS)	Competitions, in the Chair, Menagerie
Peter Litchfield (PL)	Treasurer, Abingdon
Nigel Birks	Vice Chair, Oxford
Lawrence Haines (LH)	Communications, Menagerie
Colin Wells	Oxford
Sandra Nicholson (SN)	Shareholder/Honours Boards and Trophies, Summertown
John Rowe (JR)	Joint Chief TD, Wantage
Denis Talbot	Oxford
Kathy Talbot (KT)	Joint Chief TD, Oxford
Mike Bennett (MB)	Wallingford
Alison Nicolson (AN)	Education, Wantage
Joan Bennett (JB)	Youth Section, Wallingford
Robert Gasser (RG)	Summertown
Annabel Wade	Social, Oxford
Tony Hughes	Abingdon
Michael Robinson	Menagerie
John Fleming	Oxford
Ken Langdon (KL)	Secretary

1. Apologies were received from Robert Procter, Sandra Claridge, Richard Sills, Barbara Jordan, Peter Jordan, Michael Allen, Neil Higginbottom, Claire MacDonagh, Alan Wilson, Chris Kerr, Liza Furnival, Pat Lewis, Lorraine Jones, Matt Wilkinson
2. The Minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 9th March 2017 are on the website.
3. Matters arising from these minutes: John Fleming reported that the EBU had reacted favourably to feedback, including the OBA letter, and changed the NGS system for excluding results obtained while acting as host. The result, while not ideal, was satisfactory. The meeting thanked John and Kathy for drafting an effective letter. Other matters arising would come up in other agenda items and the meeting agreed the minutes for the Chair to sign.
4. Chair's report.
JS said how well the Youth activities, led by Joan Bennett, were doing. We continue to be the leading county in this area and aspired to continue that further. He reported on how well the Congress had done measured by both the bridge played and the financial result. He thanked Michael Robinson for

his efforts. Michael in turn thanked Sandra Nicholson for all the work she had done.

JS reminded Clubs who have had a grant from the OBA of the need for them to give feedback, showing particularly how their situation might help others. John Fleming gave a report of the result of the grant-aided promotional work done in training teachers and new directors to run supervised play sessions at OBC. One of the highlights was that 24 people from the first course were already playing Masterpointed bridge. He emphasised the need for new people to be playing bridge as quickly as possible during the term. In five weeks at OBC, they were playing duplicate mini-bridge. The OBC have in the last year given 60 lessons, several tutorials and 16 seminars. Many pupils have moved on to Gentle Bridge and they are now planning for the next year's taster sessions. Ken added that he had picked OBC brains to produce a teaching plan at Bicester the marketing of which would start soon. If you want more information please contact John Fleming at OBC.

Finally, JS spoke to the paper - What does the OBA do? There was some discussion of how well the paper described the OBA's actual activities and results. Similar points were made about the EBU questionnaire answers and Ken was instructed to speak to Robert about it on his return from holiday.

5. The meeting decided not to minute the discussion on this item but to report the result. The following resolution was proposed by Alison Nicolson, seconded by Kathy and agreed subject to further slight amendment by JS, Alison and Ken. The final version reads:

‘To add to the OBA’s Child Protection Policy: No person should take part in any County event who is on the Sex Offenders’ Register. This will include Organising an OBA event, taking part in one, being present at such an event, attending County training sessions or County meetings, or representing the county.’

The meeting also agreed to examine the case for appointing a Child Protection Officer and a date for regular review of the Policy.

The meeting also agreed to send the finalised CPP to clubs with a reminder that Wessex League matches are County events.

The meeting voted to make this change to the CPP nem con.

6. The meeting appointed the following to the Selection Committee: Chair Nick Smith, County Captain Alan Wilson, John Williams, Matthew Covill, Peter Litchfield, Aleks Lishkov and Mary-Ann Sheehy. It was also agreed that Stephen Brown was appointed as Web Officer, and Claire MacDonagh as Catering Officer.

7. Competitions Team Report

The Competitions team leader, JS, proposed that they keep the fees the same next year as this. The meeting agreed. The meeting chose option 4 of the Wessex League report – when a club with more than one team playing in different divisions needs to drop a team out of the league, the team to be dropped will be decided by negotiation with the League Secretary (currently Nigel Wilkes). The meeting asked for this to be written into the Bye laws. It was decided that the Chief TDs should put the existing records of Psyches

into the Dropbox, and inform other county Directors on how to keep them up to date.

The meeting noted that Sandra N and Vicky Fleming had done the preparation work to propose the introduction of a SIMS event for novices. They were disappointed that no further action had taken place. JS agreed that the Competition Committee would look at this again and decide what to do.

8. Youth: Joan added to her report that the event at the House of Lords had been a great success. The children had behaved impeccably. Joan again stated her view that the website should be on Bridgewebs so that she could upload photographs of such events.
9. Lawrence reported on the Festival. The numbers of bookings are such that if there were no further bookings, costs could be pulled down to make sure that the OBA's loss would not exceed the £2,000 agreed with the MC. The Treasurer would review the situation with Robert in early August. Clubs are still trying to sell more tickets, making it clear that each day can now be booked individually. One possibility was to unbundle within a day.
10. JS reported on the Best Practice Review. He said that Job Descriptions were still in progress but the main ones were close to completion. He went over the list of priorities listed in the report. Denis asked which were the main variances with other Counties that the Working Party was tackling. JS stated that the main one was Governance. At present the MC, the main decision-making body of the OBA had potentially a large number of members who were not directly elected by the county membership. Other counties had a clear small management teams who ran the activities on a day to day basis - this was a major variance from the norm. The meeting agreed a small working group of Ken, Denis, John Gunn and Annabel to make a proposal on the future Governance of OBA to report to the MC in sufficient time for consideration and passing on to the AGM next June.
11. There was some discussion on the questionnaire answers that the OBA had submitted to the EBU. People pointed out some errors of fact and asked if the answers reflected reality or were a set of aspirations. Ken to discuss this with Robert.
12. Under Any Other Business Sandra raised the issue of trophies. It had been suggested that our estimates were significantly out of date. Sandra had had three of the more expensive ones revalued and it was found that there was a quite wide distribution of changed values from previous estimates, from an increase over threefold down to one of about 1.5.. Michael raised the topic of insurance. The meeting decided that based on information gained so far, Sandra, Nigel and Peter should agree a total estimate for the complete holding and seek an insurance quote for the trophies in any location, someone's home or centrally. John F provided this link:
http://www.greeninsurance.co.uk/docs/insurance_services/trophy_insurance.shtml#.WXEAcojyvZQ as a possible provider.
13. Date of next meeting: 20th November 2017, 7.30 at the Horspath Hub.