

MINUTES OF OBA COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 13th June (3.30pm – 5.30pm)

Present: Kathy Talbot (Chair), Peter Litchfield (Treasurer), Patricia Hones (Chief TD), Stephen Brown (Secretary), Sandra Nicholson (Wessex, Shareholder), Charlie Bucknell as Education Officer, Robert Procter (Promotion, Social & Education Team leader), Peter Finbow, Joan Bennett (Juniors Team), Alan Wilson (selection committee and Shareholder), Matthew Covill (Selection Committee), Denis Talbot, Sandra Claridge (Presidents and Chester, Shareholder)

1. Apologies for absence: Malcolm Currie, Adrian Lambe

Welcome from Kathy, and the minutes of the last meeting were approved with one amendment: Just before section 8, An *“ideal vision for the EBU is that anyone who plays bridge would be an EBU member, but with non-affiliated clubs etc this has not happened.”*

2. Matters arising from notes of last meeting -

- i. Grant Application from Charles Bucknell Bridge – no agreement has been reached. Talks are ongoing. If this proceeds further KT will report back.
- ii. Role of the County (feedback from sub-committee meeting early May)
- iii. Safeguarding - KT has spoken to EBU Safeguarding officer. She is speaking to others, their current policy does not cover our current requirements
- iv. Budgets – coming up under Account’s report

KT has not met with the selection committee. But this is still an action point

KT gave thanks for Robert & Stephen for getting accounts together.

Robert has done more formal accounting and is going to present these.

3. Officers’ reports:

We had read the reports in advance. The following points were added

Chair

KT gave thanks for all the work officers had done and for attending this meeting, and thanks to those with whom she has been working in the various subcommittees: a lot of hard work has been put in.

Treasurer

Robert Procter presented under this item, referring to the 2022-2023 accounts (to be circulated). Peter had suggested a cash account. i.e. cash in or cash out. But, during course of Robert’s analysis, lots of cash out related to the previous year, so created a creditor figure as at March 2022.

And has worked out a debtor / creditors for the year. We looked at schedule 3

Schedule 4, had £35,589 in current account, but £25,000 was transferred to savings accounts.

Congress account reduced since most of the balance was moved to the main account.

Net assets of £34,783.

Schedule 5, right hand two columns are like those we have looked at in the past. See amounts with team allocated.

For congress, a few cheques went missing so it did not reconcile completely.

County Teams costs, Tollemache + practice sessions, paying Simon Cope to give coaching.

Admin consists of Website £(450), profit on duplimating and then secretarial costs, giving a deficit of £192.

£30,000 on deposit, interest portion was £411 for the period to end of March 2023. £25,500 was put back on deposit.

Schedule 6 – list of debtors, the detail will be sent to all of us in due course.

Schedule 7 – all competitions arriving at £955 profit. The X-imps BBO Pairs making the most profit. The competitions team has used this information to decide charges in 2023-2024.

Four questions:

1. Do we want to examine what Robert has done? Since required to do by Constitution. E.g. Claire MacDonagh, John Briggs, Nigel Birks, Chris Kerr,

ACTION: KT to Approach John Briggs

2. What do we wish to publish? Cash or profit/loss. Balance account, comp schedule?
Members would gain more information from figures adjusted for creditors/debtors.
They would value Balance of Accounts and Competitions.
Robert is happy to do same exercise again.
We could have a cashier making payments e.g. SB to initiate and KT to authorise

ACTION: We could wait for what the new treasurer would like.

3. Setting budget for next year (Social Team has been given £1000 to spend e.g.). We do not need to look at this now.
4. See again Schedule 6, two invoices issued in April 2022 not paid.
 - a. A pair did not get a refund when they did not play.
 - b. Extra charge for congress (the EBU re-issued a bill for MPs after B&B and OBA had agreed share of profit. B&B has now settled the extra (£79) and is included as a debtor
 - c. Christopher Whitehouse' invoices did not get paid, there should be a checking processWe need people who control budgets to check that payment have been made etc.

e.g. person looking after the bank account, take screen shot, annotates it and send to budget holder.
We need a system. Not for discussion now.

ACTION: we should have a meeting with budget holders to arrange to check payments off in the future.

For Juniors, Joan runs a separate spreadsheet and makes one claim per year.
For others there needs to be checking eg. Checking off Wessex League payments.
Treasurer did do this in previous years, but it is a lot of work.
Stephen checking off competitions, has helped.

ACTION: SB to send this spreadsheet to all committee members.

Juniors

Joan – Café Bridge, input of entry fees then 6 or so payments out. This goes into a separate Café Church Account. This is fine for events that have their own accounts.

Budget of £1000, fine and will live within this. Spend £995 last year.

Secretary

Short report of what SB has been doing, Kathy gave thanks

Promotions Group

Robert highlighted various things that help is needed with:

ACTION please offer help

1. OTT and OOPs.
2. There is a meeting next week with Mike Willoughby & Patrick Shields to discuss widening the appeal to social and unaffiliated players-
3. Café Bridge for 20th September. Venues being sorted. Confirmation needed. Help welcome
4. Ken Langdon idea of running inter-club event including non-affiliated clubs. We need someone in the south of the county to offer help here. KT is in discussion with Ken.

County Selection Committee

Some major changes:

1. Chair is being handed over to Alan Wilson (for the next three years)
2. Matthew Covill Selected as captain for the current year. The main role is getting teams out, there are significant changes up to each match, so this is an onerous task and there is a need for people to step in. Interestingly, the C team cohort is more reliable than A team
3. Resignations of Diane Nettleton and Peter Litchfield. Matthew thanked them. With Peter resigning we need someone who knows the south of county well.
4. Matthew now ex-officio
5. Asking all clubs to recommend people. There may be a risk of too many, so given that nominee will be accepted.

ACTION: Alan to write a suitable email for SB to circulate to clubs. To go out soon to have in place by AGM or earlier. Each club can decide how to nominate someone, does not need to go through their AGM.

KT would like to sit in on a meeting to discuss criteria for selection. But they tend not to meet, but perhaps there should be a meeting. The meeting has clarity on each selection. The Wessex selects for the Garden Cities, the President's Cup selects for the Pachabo. The selection process is only for Midland Counties League online and the Tollemache. The balance is right for the C team, allowing those who are of suitable standard to be invited. For the Tollemache there has been a secret ballot with a Returning Officer (John Slater), so no one gets to know what anyone else has said. One cannot vote for oneself! So a lot of care and attention is taken.

ACTION to have a selectors meeting with KT attending

Alan also gave thanks for Matthew who kept everything moving. But there will be a new selection committee who need to decide how much they would meet.

Competitions Group including

4. Items from Competitions Subgroup, for discussion / confirmation

SB presented the minutes of the previous meeting. It was agreed that the sub-committee to rewrite the by-Laws, as needed i.e. this is delegated.

ENTRY FEES

- i. £6 per head for events where normal LPs are awarded (Mixed Pairs, Handicap Pairs, Harwell Cup) – i.e. no change. Senior remains at £5 per player
- ii. Entry fees for Blue Pointed Events £9 per head (Swiss Pairs) i.e. no change
- iii. Entry fee for Count Pairs Semifinal £3 per head and Final £9 per head i.e. no change for final
- iv. Entry fee for Wessex League up to £60 per team from £50, (evening £30 from £25)

Agreed.

Prizes should be decided by the full committee (we think that the Constitution is silent on this matter). We should give cash prizes at this year's AGM. Then accept the recommendation from the competitions subcommittee i.e.

- i. give prizes for open events eg. Blue Points & Handicap event (awarded by transfer shortly after the event. 20% of entry fees
- ii. But events with a trophy do not give prizes? i.e. County Pairs, President Cup, Premiership, Mixed Pairs, Harwell Cup, Seniors Ladder
- iii. For Congress 10% of entries and wine prizes for the best score on rounds 1-6

Possible clash with Midland Counties match and County Pairs semifinal on 17th March. Midland counties is trying to avoid 10th March 2024

ACTION: REVIEW DATE

BBO Pairs league – for the premiership, should it only include scores from the First division – to be addressed by Bylaws

COUNTY PAIRS - Two weeks will be chosen in which any club duplicates act as a qualifier for pairs to play in a county pairs semifinal of their own choice. Pairs must play in their regular club. Only applies to 24+ board* duplicates in clubs. A choice of three semifinals (two evening dates, one Sunday in February). Final on Sunday in March. (* By this we mean main duplicates and not Gentle Duplicates, which tend to run on fewer boards.)

This would preclude clubs that do not have regular duplicates. We could have one County Heat in which anyone could play. Some clubs do not like players coming in from other clubs just to qualify.

Calendar Clashes, should we have some Saturdays? It make it more flexible, it may solve clashes.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP created for those who wish to play in events but are not Primary members, no fee to pay.

Wessex

A questionnaire was sent out, there were three main areas of concern

1. To play online. Yes (opportunity to play F2F if one wants)
2. In Main league to count for NGS , Yes
3. Complaints about lack of system statement or convention cards. A balance of not being too strict. KT and SN will write out regulations to cover this. Patricia expects a minimum requirement for scratch pairs (inc lead style and carding)
4. Some teams in division 3, unhappy with self-alerting. Emails sent out to collect thoughts. Awaiting responses. The danger of receiving too much information was discussed for some levels of players. We could consider a standard template. The summary is important and a link to convention card. The whole point is being helpful to opponents.

5 Grant applications

- i. KT still talking to Charlie
- ii. Help to clubs e.g. training TDs.

ACTION: KT speaking to EBED ref a cheaper cost to a club.

Also some club directors who trained and do not feel confident about going back. OBC ran a refresher course, which helped. Also one at Wallingford run by a trainer who made things fun (June Booty) and also a course for youngsters using the videos. Charlie can confirm that EBU/EBED do offer 1 free course every other year per club or per county. TBC As a follow-up, KT checked this with EBED but was told it applied only to training teachers and not TD training.

6. Treasurer

We need one, please can everyone come up with any suggestion

7. Congress 19-20 August 2023 at Radley College

Information is about to come out. Venue confirmed but not paid deposit yet.

8. AOB

None

9. Dates of Future Meetings

Committee meetings (Tuesday 3.30pm): 14th November 2023

AGM (Thursday 6pm with free entry into teams): 28th September 2023