

Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Minutes of AGM 27 June 2024 18:00 on Zoom

Present: Kathy Talbot, Alan Wilson, Amr El-Kashef, Joan Bennett, Robert Procter, Martin Illingworth, Stephen Brown, Robert Gasser, Liza Furnival, Peter Finbow, Graham Orsmond, Denis Talbot, Matthew Covill, Jack Fairclough, Christopher Whitehouse, Krys Kazmierczak, Sandra Nicholson, Peter Randall, Malcolm Currie, Annabel Barnett, Jonathan Davis, Peter Litchfield & Suzanne Litchfield

1. Apologies for absence: Cliff Hones

2. Matters Arising and Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM: Agreed. No matters arising

3. Chair's report: A very good year. Kathy thanked her hard working committee, Stephen keeps Kathy in order and keeps detailed accounts. Particular thanks for Sandra Nicholson, Dave Tarsky Wessex League, and Patricia Hones as TD, Joan organising Youth, Matthew & Joan and Alan as EBU Reps. Robert runs a very good promotions team. A policy on Grants and Awards is in process. We all need to look out for the future of the game. Tell people about the game of Bridge. Starter / taster sessions are a good way forward. Walingford is having one around September. We want all information up to date of the website. Kathy gave the AGM advance notice that this is her last year, she is resigning with effect from the AGM next year. She is willing to help in some small way. We can make the chair role less onerous. We wish to appoint a vice chair.... They can just do some of the things Kathy does. Perhaps two vice chairs, then one can support the other. Anyone present here willing to be a vice chair?

4. i. Treasurer's and Examiner's Report and Accounts for the year 2023/24.

ii. The treasurer recommends that our UMS contribution (1p) remains the same. Carried Nem Com

Kathy gave thanks to John Briggs.

5. Receive other Officers' reports. Attendees were encouraged to read the reports posted on the website. Each person was asked to highlight a few points:

Competitions (Stephen): very healthy with suitable surpluses. It is good that many competitions have restarted and we are encouraging more F2F. We wish a F2f teams of four league. Played by default in the evenings, so suitable for those who work. Any team can enter, not just clubs.

Promotion (Robert Proctor): first 4 items are there to read. Ref the festival. Robert Proctor had had an interesting morning. Played golf at Burford. Partners play bridge at Witney and another online at unaffiliated Club. Another player had set up a bridge club in Burford. Robert will talk to Christine Bishop about the possibility of a game at Burford Bridge Club. Hopefully the club will support an event raising money for Cancer Research. There are probably 30-40 there who play bridge and many not a member of a bridge club, This may be the case at any Golf Club and the same at Gyms. We need to ask the membership and try to encourage them to do organise something for Cancer Research in that week in September. It could be bridge or a golf and bridge. It used to be popular.... Something to be discussed in next PEST team meeting.

Youth (Joan Bennett). Joan had not mentioned Abbey's school work (the schools are up in Bedfordshire, so not sure whether this counts as OBA). Teaching the teachers in schools to teach is important. Charlie has started assisting with Youth bridge.

County Teams: (Alan / Matthew) three teams in the Midland County league. The B team won their league. Almost qualified for Tollemache. It all continues again next year. And we hope to have a 9-High league alongside this. Patricia is willing to coordinate this. So she welcomes all the details.

ACTION Update names of contacts on website.

6. Election of Officers and Appointment of Examiner

Are we all prepared to stand again for another year. All officer agreed to continue. Alan Wilson is willing to be EBU Rep....Or willing to stand down. One EBU meeting will be on Zoom, the other F2F.

All were voted in, nem com, John Briggs to be asked to examine the 2024-2025 accounts.

7. Presentation of Prizes and Trophies

We cannot present on Zoom. The Premiership (award points for each main competitions). Winners: Jonathan Davis & Charlie Bucknell. Sandra Nicholson wishes to thanks all those who have attended competitions. All prize winners have been offered the chance to hold their trophy. Sandra is collating responses.

8. Amendment to Constitution.

The members of the OBA Full Committee recommend that in sections 3.1 and 4.13 the word Duplicate be removed. This has the effect of saying that the OBA is promoting all types of Bridge (not just Duplicate bridge).

Also take out another paragraph to be removed ref all bridge.

Comment.... We must be careful not to support gambling (some rubber bridge clubs have gambling). Although a game of skill there is some luck. We do not think that anyone is playing bridge for money under the auspices of the OBA. There was some issue in the 1970s and it was resolved.

3.1 and 4.13 say - duplicate bridge should be taken to support all types of bridge eg. Rubber and other types of bridge.

The amendment was approved.

Date of next meeting: Thu 26th June 2025.

9. AOB We owe Kathy a big vote of thanks.

The Mixed Pairs – Only three tables....four pairs were unable to play due to Corwen. Perhaps running it earlier not in Summer, perhaps. Competitions Committee to consider.

KT thanks everyone for coming. Your committee will work hard for the benefit of Bridge and she hopes that she will see people at the Congress. She encouraged people to come to the Thu teams. At 7pm...

10. Meeting Closed at 6.45pm