

# OBA Committee Meeting, 24 June 2024 15:00 on Zoom,

## Minutes

1. Present: Kathy Talbot (Chair), Peter Litchfield, Patricia Hones (Chief TD), Stephen Brown (Secretary/Treasurer/Competitions), Robert Procter (Promotion, Social & Education Team leader), Peter Finbow, Malcolm Currie, Joan Bennett (Juniors Team), Alan Wilson (selection committee and Shareholder), Sandra Nicholson (Wessex), Matthew Covill (Selectors), Denis Talbot

Apologies for absence – Adrian Lambe

2. Matters arising from notes of last meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- i. Vice Chair position If all the action points can be completed by committee members, there is really a need to chair only four meetings a year. There are additional MCWG meetings (currently one per month) but we could rotate attendance at these. We need to find someone who has the time and energy. **ACTION:** each member to think of a name within 3 weeks. KT happy to approach them.
- ii. Grant application from Central Yarnton BC. Not closed..... KT a little more sympathetic than the last meeting was. Borrowing a machine is onerous. KT has asked about their finances. They are a club that is growing, lots of sessions and taking on new players. We should encourage them. KT to find more details. Rob said that "Should the county encourage clubs who are doing the most?". We have money in the bank to use to promote bridge. It was generally felt that this was a good idea. KT also has a draft application from OBC asking for help to fundraise for an Interactive White Board (KT to step back from that application). We would need to decide amounts..... we would need to commit e.g. £2000 and £1500 to the one doing the most. Perhaps we should ask clubs to apply. We are moving to giving awards to clubs to those who are doing the most to promote the game.

It was suggested that get applications from clubs and ideas. The ideas would be useful. DT suggested we will fund to a certain percentage... and then fund the rest on the success of the initiative. Match funding.... And using suggestion to check progress.

Sandra suggested putting into this scheme, the amount of the surplus about 2500 this year.

**ACTION:** KT to complete paperwork on CY and to draft a Funding policy for email discussion.

- iii. Proposed change to constitution. We are here for the promotion of Bridge not just Duplicate Bridge. It would need to go to the AGM. Minor form of words but a larger change of concept. When we run our taster sessions we are not talking about duplicate.

**ACTION:** SB to send this round to membership. KT to check and send to SB to circulate this evening.

3. Feedback from a handful of members to help Diana Nettleton with strategic plan for the EBU  
This meeting happened last week. DN was not able to attend this meeting.

#### 4. Officers' reports:

Chair - wishes to thank everyone. Thanks particularly to Sandra, Robert, Joan. Thanks to all. Taster session at David Lloyd. They are younger. Manager is enthusiastic. Drinks will come out of Robert's promotions budget. Any help needed? Robert and Kathy doing this. Denis will come to play. No formal slide show or information. But getting people to play. A few others invited from OBC. KT just needs enough for 1 or 2 tables. It is going to be advertised in David Lloyd. They have a simple poster for their Bingo night. And it would go round on their newsletter. On a Friday night. There may be some juniors. David Lloyd Gym is on the Eastern Bypass of Oxford, close to Audi building.

Treasurer - mentioned that the final surplus was around £2,500. The Debtor amount for the Wessex was worked out incorrectly so there is actually around £120 more surplus for the Wessex.... But this will now show on next year's accounts.

Promotions Group nothing to add, although intended for AGM. Robeert was a little negative when people have not really engaged with visiting other clubs and few positive replies from clubs ref the Festival. Clubs needs to have a more positive attitude. The EBU is adding each event to its website and sending it out on Social Media. We are aware that Wallingford are organising something. Although concentrating on that week, Cafe Bridge is booked in Henley on 4th September. There is a junior event on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> that can also be added. Another idea was to do a bridge match on Abingdon Town Square. Peter Litchfield emailed round and got little response. But we think it was a good idea. The Museum adjacent has a roof. Larger playing cards could be used.

County Selection Committee SB to amalgamate this report and the one for the previous meeting for the AGM. We also need someone to find a 9-High coordinator at the same time. We think that there are 6-8 in the Thursday Cross-imp pairs. One of those might coordinate. We could send an email around looking for those willing to play in the 9.High, but it is not very productive for the Dawes League teams.

Some people change from 9-High. OBA will adhere to rules set by the MCWG.

We need to find a captain for the 9-High inter-county team. Patricia would be an idea person to coordinate. Or Lesley Sixsmith. SB to send known names to Peter Finbow to collate. Can also look at Wessex League Divn 3 & 4. **ACTION:** Patricia agreed "probably": to make decision.

**Note:** Sandra & Kathy to have a look at what we do when club teams need renumbering. E.g. Wallingford Teams. **ACTION:** SN and KT to meet with PH.

**ACTION:** Alan or Matthew to let SB know dates for Dawes Matches. They know the dates and are asking for date in September to move (clashes with Premier League). It had been agreed informally. Then someone from Worcestershire had an event and it got over-ruled. Matthew has also asked the county OBA is due to play to a different date. E.g. just the A Team. Negotiation may be needed. **ACTION:** AW or MC to send correspondence on date change to KT

Juniors – see report. Since Covid, Joan has not been able to put time into developing the primary schools. There has not been continuity. It was felt it was better to put efforts into secondary schools. A lot of top independents run it themselves. Charlie is now involved but Joan needs to meet him to discuss roles.

University bridge has fallen between EBU and EBED and little is happening. Joan is hoping for more effort into University bridge by talking to EBED (7 CEOs in 10 years !). The Portland Bowl is down to 4 entries. Effectively Jack High. Joan's efforts have moved more in this direction. Also Grand Prix (3 F2F and 3 online). The one on Sunday had more entries. It is not Oxfordshire Stuff. Holly has a new influx of children....., Claire Johnson has more at Witney. Some growth. Abbey Smith's proposals for the Festival is doing quite a lot and

three events in Festival week for beginners, some targeted at schoolchildren. Perhaps we should invite her to a Committee Meeting. Abbey also once spoke to OBA Club Chairs. Joan and Charlie will meet tomorrow.

**ACTION:** KT/RP to organise club chairs meeting this year. Invite Abbey.

#### Competitions Group

New F2F league starting, default evening time (teams of four). Need someone to run it. We could approach Graham Orsmond, Debbie Roberts or Adrian Lamb, who favour F2F. More of revival of the Chester Cup, in evening rather than daytime Wessex so not to clash with Daytime Wessex League.

**ACTION:** KT to speak to one of them

5. 'Festival of Bridge, September 2024 Robert added..... County's involvement is to encourage and support. It is the clubs to come up with ideas. The County to help with marketing. The EBU is talking to U3A chiefs to try to get progress here. The County has not had success liaising with U3A.

Witney has notified the EBU but there is nothing currently on their website.

6. Congress 16-18 August 2024 at Abingdon School

Everything in order. All booked. The school has not got back to us ref deposit. The hope is that the school is going to do the refreshments. The County may provide jars of coffee. OBA needs to get in on Friday. KT has booked equipment from EBU (boards, tables etc). These will need to be delivered on Friday and picked up on Monday.

7. Final Preparations for AGM on Thursday - add link to website. Sandra to let those who are receiving prizes to encourage them to come.
8. AOB
9. Dates of Future Meetings: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

#### Circulation:

Kathy Talbot <kathy\_talbot@hotmail.co.uk>,  
Peter Litchfield <peterlitch@gmail.com>,  
Patricia Hones <patricia@hones.org.uk>,  
Charlie Bucknell <bucknellbridge@gmail.com>,  
Robert Procter <[robert.c.procter@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.c.procter@btinternet.com)>,  
Adrian Lambe <[adrianplambe@hotmail.com](mailto:adrianplambe@hotmail.com)>,  
Malcolm Currie <mjc@star.rl.ac.uk>,  
Sandra Claridge <sclaridge31@gmail.com>,  
Peter Finbow <pwfinbow@yahoo.co.uk>,  
Joan Bennett <[joanmbennett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joanmbennett@hotmail.co.uk)>,  
Alan Wilson <awilson@oxfordeconomics.com>,  
Matthew Covill <matthewcovill@hotmail.com>,  
Sandra Nicholson <sjnich@gmail.com>,  
Denis Talbot <[denis.talbot@oncology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:denis.talbot@oncology.ox.ac.uk)>,  
OBA Competitions <obacomp@gmail.com>,