

MINUTES OF OBA Committee Meeting, 26 March 2024 15:30 on Zoom

1. Attended

Present: Kathy Talbot (Chair), Peter Litchfield, Patricia Hones (Chief TD), Stephen Brown (Secretary/Treasurer/Competitions), Charlie Bucknell (Education Officer, Shareholder), 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)

Apologies for absence

Denis Talbot, Sandra Claridge (Presidents and Chester, Shareholder), Adrian Lambe

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

- i. EBU AGM - The meeting had addressed the issues with which we had been concerned.

For info, issues this weekend with EBED were reported by Joan.....

Joan Bennett reported that Lee Guy, chair of EBED three year term was up. The EBU board decided not to renew this term and the rest of the trustees resigned. Three new trustees from the EBU board have been appointed by the EBU Board. It would be good to have someone interested in youth. OBA could suggest a trustee. Charlie suggested that OBA write to Mark Humphries suggesting a trustee, e.g. Stuart Haring, since we believe he has a good skill set.

ACTION: Kathy Talbot

- ii. Vice Chair position. Robert suggested Matthew Covill. Matthew will reflect on this.

3. Officers' reports: see reports on website under County Business

Chair - see individual reports

Treasurer

We are pleased that there is a surplus, but should reflect on what we should spend it on. There is no need for an increase in income. We can spend some money on the Festival of Bridge. There is £500 funding for Juniors ring fenced. How can Juniors access this? It would be particularly nice for Oxfordshire juniors to access this. EBU also handles bursaries for Juniors, so one needs to be careful. But we have indicated that we are raising it for Juniors in general

We are wishing to promote bridge. We could use this money to pay someone like Charlie or Jonathan to put on an event.

ACTION: Kathy & Joan to have a conversation (anyone else welcome to forward views)

Secretary nothing to add

Promotions Group moving from working with Unaffiliated clubs to focussing on the festival, hoping that they will see this as helpful. Café Bridge in Abingdon – 21st May. This money is going to Sobell House.

Aiming to get new players for the EBU and raise money for charity. A stand could travel around the county to different towns with people sitting at a desk or 4 people playing bridge. This costs money and we could use some of the surplus for this.

OOP OTT to be removed. Prize of £10 due to Robert to go to Cancer Research.

County Selection Committee The committee considered whether to have trials, but after a close vote it was decided not to go forward with this. A trial would need to be over several weekends. It also depends on whether a person is being selected for the Tollemache or whether it is a lower team.

Suggestion: write to all playing in the two Thursday events, who are not playing in the County Team whether are interested. ACTION: Matthew

Alex Lishkov is no longer a selector since his County of Primary Allegiance is currently Warwickshire.

A question was asked about anyone who wishes to play and is not currently being selected. Alan invited them to complete the availability return or someone else give the name to the selection committee. The selection committee has used information from the Thursday County events and the NGS list, particularly for C team selection, and new people looking to play in the County Teams should play in the Thursday events.

It is good to be kept informed of the selection process.

Juniors Juniors are going pretty well. The “generation game” for families to play together online is taking off. See Bridge4Schools website.

Festival of Bridge Sat Sept 14. Ewa Wiczorek requested to bring a 49 board studio event for youngsters plus a less demanding section. Decisions to be made as to categories. Advertising will be needed in church halls, pubs, library etc including Junior events.

Report from Bridge4Schools website : The 2024 Spring Junior Bridge Camp was held in Cheltenham on 23rd and 24th March this year. Over 70 children and adults attended over the 2 days from beginners to internationals and enjoyed a fun mix of lessons and competitions. The competition results can be seen on the Gloucestershire County Bridge Association website. On Saturday the juniors played in a joint competition with members of Cheltenham Bridge Club and some of them were heard correcting their elders- a risky business.

Dinner, bed and breakfast, supplied by Cheltenham Ladies College was of the usual high standard and 32 full sized pizzas followed by ice cream for lunch helped the afternoon concentration enormously. First place and the salver were won by Sophie Morris aged 9 and her partner Joseph Hedges aged 13 against much older and theoretically stronger opposition. Well done to both of them. Saturday evening competition was won by Thibault Croznier and David Sargeant and the exciting late night speedball was Cecilia Birdsall and Ben Cadge. All winners received a plaque and large Easter egg.

Competitions Group

The Congress in August 2024 has been firmed up. Director booked.

Sandra & Kathy will need to discuss whether we can do more for F2F teams players. Lots of people at Wallingford facilitate things there, multiple teams on first Friday of the month. So does Oxford on Wednesday. Teams of four would be easier than teams of eight. It could be run as a league. E.g. an event like the Chester Cup. Since 90% of our membership is retired, the events could be during the day. Some of the emails are from those not retired. It is unlikely that the Wessex would return F2F. Others are saying county events should be for those resident in the county. But it is also good to get lots of people playing bridge.

We could have a note on the home page of the OBA website "Want to play F2F - look at this information."

ACTION: Take this to the competitions group.

4. Grant application from Central Yarnton BC

Christopher Whitehouse can do the duplicating and lives close to Central Yarnton. There may be spare duplimating machines in Oxfordshire. The Summertown BC machine has already been donated to someone running several schools bridge clubs and is being used well.

ACTION: Ask Christopher to do a survey of clubs. There may be a machine that they no longer wish to keep.

Central Yarnton did also contact the EBU.

Peter Litchfield said that sharing dealing machines is onerous.

ACTION: Kathy to write holding letter to Central Yarnton.

5. Budget & budget holders

Nothing is prepared for this. Robert has a budget for Promotion. Joan has a budget. Sandra / Stephen have done sub-budgets for the Wessex League.

ACTION: Peter Litchfield to summarise what info he has.

ACTION: Peter Litchfield to send bank statements to Stephen.

Competitions runs without a budget, making a surplus.

6. Proposed change to constitution

Kathy was going to write to the EBU to check whether there were any issues with our revised constitution.

The issue was taking out "Duplicate" Bridge.

ACTION: Kathy to do this.

7. 'Bridging the Gap' is now included within the Festival in September.

8. Congress 16-18 August 2024 at Abingdon School

Moving ahead well. KT has been promised a contract summarizing the booking, but has not received this yet. Draft brochure nearly ready to go. It is a lovely venue. Modern, very accessible, with a little hatch area for serving Tea/coffee and very comfortable chairs (so no need to hire).

Aim to save some money by borrowing equipment from Oxford, Wallingford and Abingdon. E.g. tables and other equipment. To be coordinated nearer the time.

9. AOB

SB away from 11-30 April.

Is Oxford going to run a directors course? Central Yarnton is currently running one.

ACTION: one of the directors to coordinate a date.

Charlie not able to make the 18-19 May 2024. County Training, but a meeting afterwards discussed his request for support with becoming a County TD.

Sandra: The AGM is on 26th September but the website does not give the venue. SB to add that it will be held online, followed by free bridge.

10. Dates of Future Meetings: , 11th June 2024, and 5th November 2024

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