

## Minutes of OBA Committee Meeting, 1 April 2025 15:00 on Zoom,

### 1. Present / Apologies for absence

Present Sandra, Kathy, Peter L, Alan, Kathy, Matthew, Malcolm, Patricia, Robert, Denis, Patricia

Apologies Adrian, Alan, Peter F, Denis T

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

- i. Completing forms for Tax Liability. It has gone to Inland Revenue, but there has been no reply. There is confusion as to whether OBA is liable. **ACTION KATHY TO FOLLOW UP WITH IR**

### 3. Officers' reports:

Chair, nothing to add to report. **Congress** group is still waiting to meet. There is a new spreadsheet. AIM to get on website in next two weeks. The congress Group aim to meet on Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> April: 10.30am. They will set the price.

Treasurer – Matthew asked: we have been generous to clubs and we should say how that has gone. We should perhaps publicise this more. The AGM is coming up and it is a good time to do this. Peter L is very pleased with publicity from OBA for the Abingdon Swiss Pairs and half of players were from outside the club. Sandra added: to produce a brief report on what OBA has done, send to club chairs and ask them to pass it on to club members if they wish. Better to go through clubs rather than the usual emailing out.

**ACTION KATHY TO SUMMARISE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OBA inc GRANTS**

Secretary – nothing to add to report

Promotions Group: Robert emphasised a couple of things. 1. Pat Barbour approached ref the wish to run a Café Bridge on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Henley has booked one last week (September 3<sup>rd</sup>) but has not done anything on this yet, so this will be moved. Burford may be able to help Joan ref a venue for an event next year. 2. Nothing further to add on Teacher's get together. Matthew's question ref publicity may be answered by point 3. We find these groups occasionally. The County's job is to get I touch with all these people. Robert wishes to advertise what grants have made, and emphasise the benefits of being Affiliated to OBA, and you pay for it a little over time by a small percentage on table money through P2P. This is a better way round, offering first and getting the payback later. 4. The Social table was successful, advice was available. We are thinking of starting something in the autumn with good advertising. With a big bank, rather than drip feed. Try to get 25 tables involved. A date to be chosen and have one event, a little charge and raising money for charity. They will then be told about weekly events (but vary the time etc). Robert is trying to get a core of players to commit on these dates moving forward. Robert wishes money from social bridge to go the EBU, and at the same time get their support. The question is how to get it advertised. Committee members could use friends or newsletter. Barbara Jordan may have contacts from her Strawberry Bridge events. More email address needed to be passed to Stephen if he is to email round. But these hopefully will be collected. 5. There has been discussion on this at the Midland Counties Meeting (Yorkshire has a policy on Diversity etc).

(Robert left the meeting at this point)

County Selection Committee: Very successful in the Tollemache qualifier but very disappointing final where the team could not win a single match. Oxfordshire is a strong county, but each pair had a bad session on different matches. The County has done well in the Midland Counties online league, The third

division coming third was disappointing since we normally do so well. Second division was great going on to represent Oxfordshire in the Inter Counties Competition. The first division coming second was good but the winning county has some international players. The selection committee has a challenge getting to people who may be interested in being selected. People have struggled with doodle polls, teams have been selected but then found people were actually unavailable and not let people know. We wish more transparency with the availability. It would be good to be more inclusive. The website could be used for a form for people to indicate availability. There are some people with high NGS who may not be aware that they can put their names forward. KT Said we are not a diverse committee.

SN When info go outs for Thursday Teams, we could add: would you be interested in playing for the county. But these are already on our radar. It is those we do not have a contact for.

**ACTION SB to pass to Matthew list of all those who are Jack and above.**

Juniors – SB to add Article from Richard on Youth Bridge. Things are being taken away from Counties but moved to EBED and counties joining together e.g. Sussex Surrey Kent. It is being regionalised. Growth in Surrey. The growth is by events online. There is school bridge online, Generation game once a month and for anyone who turned up. So bridge is being offered to schools that never played bridge before but the junior bridge is not Oxfordshire but regional or country wide through online. There is some teaching in schools. Some have dropped teaching with change of Head Teacher etc There is some in Burford. Can we have a drive encouraging people to get involved in schools. Like Robert found a bridge club in Burford, Richard found 5 tables in a school. At Abingdon teaching juniors has two groups, beginners and more advanced.

It was at Primary school which resulted in losing these children when they went to secondary school. In Berks and Bucks they go to grammar and comprehensive school. There is sufficient in the budget to cover costs.

**ACTION: Peter L, Joan and Kathy to meet to discuss how to get more going.**

Competitions Group – see minutes of competition meeting. Challenge of clubs planning events after the county has planned its events.

**ACTION** In the summer, clubs to be invited to suggest dates in for 2025-2026

Storing OBA Documents Kathy has many documents, she may get them scanned perhaps find a teenager.

SB has documents from 2006-2025. It is the historic documents that KT has, and PL has finance forms from when he was treasurer. PL has thing that would need scanning. PL to send files to SB. KT has old paper minutes. Google drive has 15 GB free. There is a need for an Archive Officer.

#### 4. Dealing Machine / Playing cards.

Charlie Bucknell is winding down his bridge business to pursue other lines. He wonders if the OBA or any club would be interested in buying his dealing machine?

Additionally he has cards and cases. He has 8 cases available, 3 with regular cards and 2 with boards 33-48. The rest are 1-32. There is also a box full of new cards and some new boards. He's looking for £80 for a case full of boards, which is just under half cost. He's also happy to sell off the new unopened decks at £1.50 per deck (I have 33 of those). He'll throw in the (24) new unused boards (with new cards) and stickers with a reasonable purchase order!

There was an email discussion. Summary:

Cards last a long time these days and there is less need for duplicating boards with online events. Christopher should be the person who advises us on this. When Summertown stopped playing F2F, they asked if any of the county clubs wanted our equipment and no one came forward (this was before Witney took the plunge...). In the end we gave it all to someone Joan Bennett knew, for the benefit of youth bridge.

Christopher wrote: I already have a lot of OBA boards that are not in use cluttering up my house. Wantage, Abingdon and Kings Sutton also have boards of OBA's on indefinite free loan. I don't believe we need any more. It might be worth asking Wallingford, as a face-to-face club, if they are interested. Kathy also has 33 packs of cards in hand. As I have said before, I think we have too many dealing machines in the county. OBA's is very old now, but it is actually still running perfectly well, and the workload is much reduced from days gone by, so I wouldn't encourage the county to acquire another one. One avenue that might be worth exploring is Chipping Norton. They have approached me a couple of times about getting pre-dealt boards, which they seem to be keen to have, but have not followed up their enquiries - the problem being (I think) that they don't want to have to come into Oxford to collect them. Maybe OBA could offer them a grant to help buy Charlie's machine?

Abingdon recently upgraded and renovated its duplimator by sending it back to the manufacturers. It cost £285, including postage. Those that do the duplimating (Tony and Karen Hughes) say that it now runs well.

**DECISION:**

The county does not wish to purchase more cards or dealing machine

The storage is an issue and there is a lot of reserve machines around.

Does Burford wish a dealing machine? Abingdon has found that renovation works well, even sending it to Sweden. A lot cheaper than buying a new one. It took 2-3 weeks so no issue.

The EBU TD forum has a non commercial classified ads area.

**ACTION: KT to let Charlie know.**

5. Grants (no requests received this quarter)

6. AOB. Sandra: The Wessex League very nearly finished. There are 4 matches to be played in the main league and one in the day time league. Oxford A has won division 1.

The actions relating to the Thursday evening were done and 10 tables have been playing. This could be publicised more and when doing Wessex League matches, request avoiding 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. Several Claridge Club teams do not play on Thursday.

7. Dates of Future Meetings: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Tue 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 TBC

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