

# MINUTES OF OBA COMPETITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Monday 20th Oct 2025

## (3.30pm – 5.15pm)

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### Agenda

1. **Apologies** Peter Finbow, Sandra Claridge
2. **Minutes of previous meeting**, Matters arising. The following actions points are still to be completed:
  - i. PH to do Crib sheet for pre-alerting online.
  - ii. KT to do update new 'Chester Cup' event and liaise with GO and SN
3. **Bylaws (click to see latest)**
  - i. **County Pairs** Level 4 conventions to be added. SB to send emails to SN for checking before they are sent to clubs and players as last year.
  - ii. **Harwell Cup** Again add Level 4 conventions, other by-laws need checking to see if Level 4 needs to be added.
  - iii. **Wessex League** Regulations for online matches will be amended next year to make it as non-date specific as possible. Matches can be F2f but Bridgemates (or similar) should be used to collect scores so it can uploaded to NGS.
  - iv. **9H County Pairs** point 5 delete reference to Q high to lowest possible division. For both the County Pairs and 9H county pairs players should play withing their own clubs.
  - v. **Thursday Pairs League** Although the bylaws could refer to more than two division, SB has redrafted for two divisions since at present it was not expected to exceed that. Delete amount of payment in point 4. Add level 4. SB to create regulation for Thursday Teams Add Level 4. We discussed whether OBA should we have an event that was level 5, but it was decided that all would be level 4. In point 4: with 15 entries to make it clear that one separates into divisions to decide which one pair is relegated / promoted. When allowing a pair to make a 'guest appearance' for the November County Pairs heart, use established partnership NGS to decide division (if not an established partnership then the average of the two NGS grades.
4. **Wessex League –**
  - i. Sandra Nicholson reported on the 2025-2026 event, which continues to be a very successful county event. There were the same number of entries as last year for the main league and more entries for the afternoon league. if there are any more for the afternoon league, then there will need to be one more division. Everyone has paid up. The budget was calculated

by SB & SN and there will be a small surplus for the year (£200). Most matches fixed up, SN to chase those not fixed up. There was one request for a ruling. One pair was using a system that was not allowed at Level 4. They have promised not to use it again. KT may query whether the convention should be Level 5 with the EBU L&E.

- ii. Ken Langdon proposal for 2026-2027 and his request to send email to all clubs was discussed in detail. Perhaps if the F2F Teams of four gets going at the beginning of 2026, then there may be little demand for the Wessex League to be F2F. It was suggested out of the meeting that this be called the Mercian League. We did not agree with all the points e.g. not all clubs have club premises and the argument about older people does not necessarily hold. But we would be happy for Ken to email all the club secretaries, summarise all the replies and feed back to the committee for us to consider. PH also felt that players do not wish to move back to F2F and e.g. at Wallingford have some players that are not local. SN usually asks players for views when she emails them between competitions and there was a substantial majority for online. **Note:** it is already the case that although the default is online, any two teams may play F2F if both captains agree and computerised results are available for NGS.

KT to let SB have some suggested wording to reply to Ken.

## 5. Review of current competitions, surpluses etc

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Home Counties Cup, Aylesbury

Expenses	Amount
Hall rent	(£325.00)
Food	(£468.00)
Prize money/Round winners/Winners Trophy	(£480.00)
TD Fees	(£200.00)
EBU/Marketing & Publicity/Administration cost	(£430.00)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(£1,903.00)</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Subscription 26 x £60	£1,560.00
Less: Net of VAT & collection charges	(£222.85)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£1,337.15</b>
<b>Profit / Loss</b>	<b>(£565.85)</b>

Aylesbury Aces were happy to run a prestigious competition with an initial loss and plan to run another in 2026.

We normally include brief accounts of the Blue pointed club events so that other clubs can learn from the costings.

ACTION: SB to ask Colin Jones / Peter Dyer for the accounts for the recent Wallingford event.

## Sat/Sun 16/17 August Congress

Congress 16-17 Aug 2025			<b>£1,599.42</b> <b>Paid into</b> <b>a/c</b> <b>9.9.2025</b>
Entries	CON-	7,686.00	
Tournament directing	CON-DIR	-1,462.9	
Prizes	CON-PRZ	-£986.00	
Master Point	CON-MPS	-£1,211.00	
Room Hire	CON-RM	-1,464.00	
Equipment	CON-EQP	-800.20	
Miscellaneous	CON-MISC	-162.53	
SURPLUS	total	<b>1,599.42</b>	

Review: Meeting in diary for next year to discuss the 2026 congress. All went well in 2025 and there was no detailed debrief. All to be similar next year. Same venue for next year and date dependent on the date of Eastbourne in August. It was felt that paying people to do tasks to reduce the onus on the committee was important and there is no need to make a great surplus. But entries increasing to nearer 45 tables would naturally increase the surplus, and numbers are increasing each year.

ACTION: Fliers for upcoming competitions to be organised for display at the congress, but seek someone to take on this task.

## Sun 31 August 2025 Friendly Pairs

Friendly Pairs		31-Aug-25				<b>£113.88</b> <b>Paid into</b> <b>a/c</b> <b>01.09.2025</b>
	Entries	Entry Fee		TOTAL		
	15	£8.00	0.36	£114.60	✓	
REFUNDS	2	-£0.36		-£0.72		
ENTRIES				£113.88		
REALBRIDGE FEE	32	-£0.48		-£15.36	✓	
EBU MP FEE	32	-£0.46		-£14.72	✓	
PRIZE	1	-£12.00		-£12.00		
SURPLUS				<b>£71.80</b>		

Review: We aim to run next year same. Ask people who played in it to spread the word. Have fliers at F2F for other F2F events.

ACTION: Email 9H Corwen competitors after the 9H Corwen event to invite them to play.

Sun 14 Sept 2025 F2F [Harwell Cup](#) Venue Roke Village Hall

Harwell Cup	14-Sep-25					£264.33
	Entries	Entry Fee		TOTAL		Paid into
						a/c
	7	£40.00	0.81	£274.33		15.09.2025
TD FREE ENTRY	1	-£10.00		-£10.00		
ROOM HIRE				-£80.00	✓	
EBU MP FEE	28	-£0.92		-£25.76	✓	
REFRESHMENTS				-£219.50		
PRESIDENTS CUP PRIZES (HALF)	2	-£28.00		-£56.00		
DEFICIT				-£116.93		

Review: those who ask for F2f did not actually play, but it clashed with the Premier League.

Was there too much food? An extra box of sandwiches was bought in case there was an extra team. There were too many biscuits/cakes.

ACTION: Closing date: Tuesday before. Ask dietary requirements on entry form.

It was decided to charge £12.00 per pair next year and for the Mixed Pairs. The venue was discussed and it was decided to alternate between Roke and Oxford each year.

The Club gets the rental income. The deficit / surplus is covered/received by the county. With more than 7 teams we would need to employ someone to organize the refreshments. Thanks to Barbara, Lesley and Anna Wright.

ACTION: Malcolm to write to them.

ACTION SB Increase to 12.00 per player on the main page and the entry form.

ACTION: Alternate venue for both the Harwell Cup and Mixed Pairs between Oxford and Roke.

Tue 16 Sept 2025 F2F [Café Bridge](#) – Henley

Cafe Bridge	16-Sep-25					£5,739.45
	Entries	Entry Fee		TOTAL		Paid into
						a/c
	59	£100.00	-£1.65	£5,802.65		
HALF REFUND	1	-£50.00		-£50.00		
REFUND FEES	8	-£1.65		-£13.20		
DONATION	1	£20.00		£20.00		

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LUNCHES		£2,313.50
LEANDER		-£925.00
PRIZES		-£78.12
ADMIN		-£20.00
BOARDS		-£20.00
DIRECTING		-£445.00
TRAVEL EXP		-£50.40
		-
	COSTS	£3,852.02
SURPLUS		£1,907.43

Review: Good surplus being donated to charity. It is historical that there are more entries at Henley and there was local support for Joan's charity.

President Cup	2025-2026	Entry Fee	TOTAL	Paid into a/c
	11	various	£216.00	17.10.2025
		Square	-£5.52	£210.48
REALBRIDGE FEE		EST:	-£64.32	✓
EBU MP FEE		EST:	-£47.84	✓
			-	
PACHABO		EST:	£120.00	
SURPLUS			-£21.68	

Review: We were pleased with an entry of 11 teams (the highest for many year, an increased from 9 in both 2023-2024 and 2024-2025).

We discussed the numbers playing in Thursday Pairs League. There were only sufficient pairs for 14 in September and the original entry for October was low.

ACTION: SB to invite entries every six months. Doing this just before the October event gained an additional 4 pairs.

One pair has commented on the unfriendliness of players. This was addressed in the opening announcements and in the joining instructions.

## 6.. Sunday Competitions for 2025

Dates for 2025-2026 are already agreed:

Sun 9 Nov 2025 [Handicap pairs](#) RealBridge  
Sun 7 Dec 2025 [Swiss Pairs Championship](#) RealBridge

### **7. Presidents Cup**

The cup appears to be mislaid. A person left two cups at OBC and only one was collected. The next OBC newsletter will ask if anyone took it home for safe keeping. There would be a discussion and decision in the May meeting to decide on a replacement. At this point Sandra just wanted to report it.

### **8. Items for next meeting**

*There was insufficient time to discuss*

- i. *Seniors. What is being currently sent out, how to attract more entries.*
- ii. to have one free or very low priced competition a year (Handicap Pairs might be suitable?), and/or to offer reduced entry fees to all OBA Primary members for open events such as Swiss Pairs.
- iii. another idea would be for OBA to fund, or part-fund, some sort of club-based competition - so almost all members could be involved - with the top few pairs from each club given free entry into an OBA Club Champions event. We might run one for online and another for F2F.

*ACTION: to keep there for next meeting.*

*There needs to be a discussion about whether the County wishes to run a National Pairs heat. KT to ask OBC.*

*ACTION: Email to go round.*

### **9. Next competitions sub-committee meetings dates**

Dates are: Monday 26th Jan 2026, Monday 18 May 2026, Mon 19 October 2026

PL cannot make 26 Jan, and SN cannot make 18 May, but it was not easy to move to another date nearby.

### **10. AOB**

MC would like to promote Midland Counties 9H events and discuss at the next meeting

GO Bicester BC have started a Thursday afternoon, come back to play bridge. Got three table, which was good.