

APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF OBA FUNDS

For consideration at Management Committee Meeting on 23rd March 2011

Three applications have been received, from Wallingford, Oxford BC, and Summertown.

1. Wallingford

Colin Jones, the Chairman of Wallingford, has sent the following email:

On behalf of Wallingford Bridge Club I wish to express an interest in submitting a proposal on the use of the County's reserve funds.

The premises we use at Wallingford are in need of further and refurbishment improvement for bridge players but more importantly the building will need some major repairs and maintenance in the near future e.g. roof major repair/ replacement. The facilities are excellent in many ways – plenty of playing space and car parking. County investment in this facility would ensure a good quality premises for long-term use.

Discussions are taking place with the Village Hall Committee regarding the long-term arrangements and funding after which I hope to come back to you.

You mentioned that there may be problems in the future with hosting County Nights at Oxford on Tuesdays because of the need to carry out building works. As a matter of interest I seem to recollect many years ago that it was suggested that the event should be rotated around the County.

As far as Wallingford B.C. is concerned there would be no problem in hosting on Tuesdays in July, August and September. In the other months teaching takes place and it should be possible, but we will need to make other internal arrangements to fit it in.

No further information has so far been received on the outcome of discussions with the Village Hall Committee.

2. Oxford B.C.

A letter from Richard Sills, Secretary of Oxford B.C., is attached. The newsletter referred to is included as a separate pdf file.

The most recent report from OBC is that they are getting a feasibility study done, with a view to presenting options to their AGM in May.

3. Summertown

Erica Sheppard, Chairman of Summertown, has sent the following email:

I am writing on behalf of Summertown Bridge Club to ask if the OBA might consider giving us a grant towards the cost of purchasing Bridgemates. Below is an estimate just received. We want to buy 20 units and also need a small laptop and printer. The total cost will therefore be in the region of £3,500. Do please let me know if you need any further information.

Subject: Quotation: 20-Table Bridgemate II System For Summertown Bridge Club

Our systems are put together on the basis of a 5-table starter pack, which includes everything needed to operate a 5-table Bridgemate system, plus the requisite number of additional table-top Bridgemate terminals. The starter pack is £995 including Vat, and subsequent terminals are each £132 including Vat. So a 20-table system comes out at £2,975. P&P/carriage adds £30.

The system carries a one-year return-to-base [Maidenhead] warranty, and there is the option of following this up with a maintenance agreement if required.

Most clubs elect to install the system themselves and learn as they go along. Sometimes there will be Club members who have some experience at another club. But there is also the option to ask us to come along and carry out initial training/event supervision - this is charged at £125.

Nigel Lancaster



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04 January 2011

Use of OBA funds

Dear Dinah

I understand that OBA has accumulated considerable reserves and is inviting affiliated clubs to apply for funds.

As Oxford Bridge Club has a large membership (over 350), I would expect us to be self-sustaining and not in need of funds for routine operations.

However, I should raise with OBA the prospect of development of the premises at OBC, which are of course an important resource for OBA – and therefore for players throughout the county.

The attached newsletter (recently issued to OBC members) sets out the problems confronting OBC, in respect of (a) a structural problem with the conservatory (b) the need for larger premises and (c) the need for premises more suited to ease of movement between rounds and more suited to running simultaneous events without undue noise disturbance.

OBC has a number of options.

1. Repair to the conservatory.
2. Remodelling within the existing footprint.
3. Extension on the present site.
4. Relocation to larger and more appropriate premises.

Option 1 would cost a few thousand pounds. OBC should be able to fund this; but OBA may wish to consider whether to offer a contribution, or a loan.

Options 2, 3 and 4 would require substantial expenditure, and OBA may wish to consider whether they would wish to retain substantial funds, in order to make either a cash contribution or a loan to facilitate such works.

Options 2 & 3 would necessitate finding alternative premises while the works proceed, which could also require retention of some OBA reserves for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

Richard Sills