

OBA COMPETITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

– Tuesday 10th October 2023 (3.30pm – 5.00pm)

Present: KT, PL, PH, SN, SB, PF

Email addresses for circulation

Items discussed

1. **Apologies** Sandra Claridge, Malcolm Currie

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**, Matters arising

a. Hands from BBO Pairs League & Teams..... ACTION continue (from oba mailings). Remind Reply All.

b. Ken Langdon has been running a social type teams event twice a year. Includes unaffiliated clubs in the north of the county and wondered whether we'd like to extend to the south. Agreed as last meeting. Progress. Little done. Happens twice a year, with wine and nibbles, teams at all standards. North one is at Kings Sutton (15 tables)

ACTION Hoping for someone to run in in the South of the County and Kathy will speak to Oxford.

3. Competitions for 2023-2024

Harwell Cup: Sun 8th Oct 2023 – 5 teams competed, top 2 qualify for Presidents Cup? Likely profit £70. From Cliff ref scoring. One session of 10 boards. VPs or IMPs. Blue Pointed? We would perhaps prefer a long sitout. But there have been complaints in the past. Leave scoring as uploaded and invite top 2 to have free entry for Presidents Cup

ACTION: for next multiple teams, we have a minimum then accept teams to keep even numbers.

Presidents Cup: entry fee to be confirmed as £30 per team – matches by default on RealBridge (OBA pays RealBridge fee), teams can play F2F. Bylaws need to indicate whom to contact for setting up a match. Teams who have not played in last two years get reduced entry of £16 per team. If get 8 teams then a plate to be run for losing round 1 teams.

Lots of advertising to try to get 8+ teams. Entries through OBA Website, teams pay via Square, as with all other OBA Competitions Stephen to liaise with Sandra to facilitate automatic transfer to EBUknockout etc

ACTION SB to advertise and check with Sandra Claridge.

Handicap Pairs: Sun 5th November Malcolm Agreed to do the handicaps, from membership. Corrected by NGS. Players cannot play unless they show their NGS. Around 36 boards. No prizes It is advertised on the website.

Swiss Pairs: Sun 3rd Dec 2023 It is advertised on the website.

ADVERTISING

ACTION Ask clubs to email all their members and post a summary of all county events on each club website.
Ask club directors to announce at club events.

County Pairs: Semifinal on Sun 11th Feb 2024 and two evening dates: Thu 1st February and Monday 19th –

Some week chosen in which any duplicates qualify a pair for a county pairs semifinal. 50% or more needed, pairs can play more than one. Weeks beginning 19th Nov, 3rd Dec, 7th Jan. We make it the responsibility of clubs to ask players to choose one of the semifinals and enter themselves via online entry sheets.

ACTION: A county RealBridge heat open to all £6 per pair 30th November 2023 (24 boards)

Pairs must play in their regular club. We decided minimum boards to be played 20. (but preferably 24). Only events open to all qualify, so not Gentle Duplicates or 9-High ones?

Cost of semifinals (£8 per pair) (26 boards)

Final: £9 per person on Sun 17th Mar 2024 (10 tables or 7 tables, depending on how many in semifinals).

4. Congress debrief notes, from meeting 07 September 2023 15:30 on Zoom,

1. Apologies PF
KT thanked everyone for all their help
Action KT: Send a thank you to those who joined in at the venue – need contact details
Action PL: to send KT a list of helpers Matthew C Adrain L Adrain Cantwell Malcom Currie Cliff Hones
2. Accounts: summary of income
3. Date of next congress
Not ideal being so close to summer meeting, Wessex and AGM
Very lucky that it wasn't hot
Include question in survey
4. It takes 2-3 years to build up attendance at new venue. Venue for next congress including review of Radley's Baker Gym. Start soon to identify. Happy Sheets for 2023 Congress: **Action PL** to initiate survey." To help us decide please answer these questions? Views on disabled access: PL to include in survey
5. More advertising for the Friendly Pairs: make it clear that they need to enter!
OBC needs to push it more to learner groups. KK and SN went to Cheltenham. Very lucky because nearby purpose-built congress hall. Dark, no natural light but looks great. They got about our numbers for Swiss events but 20 tales of friendly pairs. Teachers and OBC and Wallingford to plug to novices
6. Leftovers: KT to offload excess to OBC
7. Catering
8. Keep a note of how much coffee, tea and squash we used. **ACTION:** KT to document. 2 bottles of squash, two packs of tea and more than one coffee. 7 x 4 pts milk.
9. Suzanne
Worked really well the card-reading gadget (borrowed from OBC) and cash.
Water situation for filling the urns – long way. Spent most of Sunday running round carrying water
Crisps – ordinary salted crisps went the best
Hose? Or tap.
10. Coffee cups. Some spare.
11. Chairs. Would not use the same ones. Some broken (slight refund). Good service, not particularly comfortable. Could we borrow from OBC and Wallingford?

Conclusions

We do want to do one next year?

Date: Aug is holiday time – might affect the numbers. Look at alternative dates

ACTION: all suggest alternative dates

Venue: generally thought nice. Gripes: car park distance, loos in a different building, several ladies complained about stairs to loo upstairs. Complaints about chairs

Liked surroundings and the room. Need microphone.

Send survey

Toilet needs handle on inside. Raised seat on the toilet.

Happy sheet to Peter. SB to send out

Flowers to Suzanne. **ACTION KT**

Possible venues:

St Edwards: should we enquire, **Abingdon School?**, **Headington School?**

Congress 2023

Income			Expenditure		
Swiss Pairs	£2,166.00	RECD	TD Fees	£411.10	PAID
Swiss Teams	£2,181.25	RECD	Admin Fees	£101.60	PAID
Sale of Cakes etc	£29.48	RECD	EBU Equipment & duplicating	£420.24	PAID
			Delivery of Bridge Equipment	£360.00	PAID
			Prizes cash	£400.00	380 PD
			Prizes bottles	£240.25	
			Hire of chairs	£373.68	PAID (inc slight refund of 14.16)
			Hire of Radley Gym Deposit	£210.00	PAID
			Hire of Radley Gym Balance	£725.40	PAID
			Susanne Thank you Engraving?	£36.98	PAID
			Refreshments (KT)	£236.60	Some to be sold on to OBC
			EBU GP Fee	£755.36	PAID BY DD PAID BY KATHY
			Caddy / runner (Harry)	£130.00	but to claim
Income	£4,376.73			£4,401.21	
Expenditure	-£4,401.21				
PROFIT	-£24.48				

ACTION: All payments to KT be concluded by end of October. Receipts to be sent to SB

5. Café Bridge Report, Robert Procter writes:

I have had quite a few e-mails thanking us. And the people who thanked me on the day all said they had really enjoyed it. So we could say mission achieved. Thank you all for your contributions to making that happen.

The arrival process was made difficult by the fact that the room was half full of people when Martin and I arrived at 10.00 expecting people to arrive at 10.30. Maybe we frightened them about the parking. The Little Angel wouldn't deviate from putting out their full a la carte menu with prices up to £12.50 for starters and £28.50 for mains - despite eventually admitting that they had found e-mail correspondence which they earlier denied existed. In the end an announcement was made that people would have to pay themselves for any two courses amounting to over £30 and the bill was limited to £560 (£28 a head). Another time we have to tie them down or go elsewhere.

The Hart Tavern service was very slow delaying our afternoon bridge at three venues which then carried on to the finish nearer 4.30 than the 4.00 advertised and I gather some people were also dissatisfied with the food they got. Four of us ate there and were happy with what we got however. Debbie Roberts has made some suggestions (I believe at Kathy's request) - some of which arise directly from the fact that she hadn't received joining instructions as she was a replacement player but others have some merit. She thought we could have explained the nature of the event and aggregate scoring better and that we should have had a map especially with their being two Angels and the Spice Merchant having moved. My initial welcome was apparently not heard by many - so I have to shout louder!

The scoring showed that many pairs could not manage addition and subtraction and we were five scorecards missing at the end. I have done a lot of checking since and at least managed to establish that the right people won prizes.

I am inclined to write to all the participants with a series of questions about different aspects to find out what people think. One of the questions would have to identify whether they belong to a duplicate club or not as I heard differing opinions about whether MP pairs or aggregate scoring was appropriate for a field that included a number of golf club members who possibly don't play duplicate bridge. It was one of Debbie's suggestions that I should have told people to adopt teams tactics but where would you stop if you did that?

The important thing at the end of the day is that we recognise the things we could have done better if we are going to do one again and so many people said they hoped we would including those who didn't get to play.

Cafe Bridge	20-Sep-23				£4,003.97
	Entries	Entry Fee		TOTAL	Paid into a/c
	50.5	£80.00	£1.37	£3,970.82	02.10.2023
DONATION OF ENTRY FEES				£60.00	
REFUND FEES	5x1.37	-£6.85			
LUNCHES		-£1,756.88			
LEANDER		-£900.00			
ADMIN		-£20.00			
BOARDS		-£27.00			
SCORECARDS		-£30.00			
PRIZES		-£89.50			

		-
	COST	£2,830.23
PROFIT		£1,200.59

Agreed: another one in Abingdon in Spring 2024, run by Peter and others around Abingdon. Stephen to do same for entries.

ACTION Decide date and put on website.

6. Prizes for OBA Events

The AGM confirmed our proposal. Only prizes now for Congress, Swiss Pairs; Café Bridge.

But Alan Wilson writes ref BBO Pairs:

I also wonder a little whether the event might be boosted by having a prize every 6 or 12 months for the pair with the best average ranking (with the top of div 2 ranking 1 place below the bottom of div 1, etc). It ought to be possible to display running totals for this, I would have thought.

AGREED. Sep-Feb then Mar-August pairs ladder based on position as above. If play with robot or substitute player it does not count. Best 4 of 6.

Prize: 2 free plays per person. i.e a cost of \$16 total.

ACTION. SB to draft something.

7. Wessex League – Sandra Nicholson to report, as needed. All info on website.

All running smoothly. All instructions out and bylaws updated.

ACTION: Patricia to let Sandra know whether the NGS has appeared for her recent match.

ACTION end of October SN to check and chase matches not scheduled.

Dave Tarsky has created a spreadsheet for F2F matches, info goes in and then creates a file to submit to P2P via Oxfordshire's MyEBU.

Progress: Cup for Wessex league daytime league? No one wanted the Trophies from the other competitions. So do we want another cup? SN to repurpose a cup.

8 Progress of OOPs and OOTs

Are all club names on the sheets etc? No, not on there. On OTT & OOP need some more.

ACTION: SB to do.

9. Access to RealBridge

Should more people have the password to the OBA RB account? Eg: Alan Wilson and Martin Illingworth (for Dawes League matches). It would lighten Kathy's load in setting up matches. YES

ACTION SB to pass details on

10. Next competitions sub-committee meetings suggested dates

Equivalent dates are: 16th Jan 2024, 21st May 2024, 8th Oct 2024.

All 3.30pm on Zoom