

# AGENDA WITH NOTES TO AID DISCUSSION OF OBA COMPETITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Monday 1st June 2026 (2.30pm – 4.00pm)

Email addresses for circulation

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## Agenda

- 1. Apologies** Sandra Claridge, Peter Finbow.  
**Present:** Malcolm Currie, Kathy Talbot, Stephen Brown, Patricia Hones, Peter Litchfield, Sandra Nicholson
- 2. Minutes of previous meeting**, Matters arising
- 3. Seniors pairs** – how to attract more entries, advertise etc. WhatsApp group? Move venue?

There was a discussion brainstorming ideas.

It has not run recently, since 5 tables have not entered. There are a couple of pairs will not play unless 5 tables are in play, otherwise it could run with 4 tables. An alternative venue is Oxford, but parking is a drawback. It used to get a good number. Probably a journey of 25 mins is OK. Would just an afternoon event be better? Time of start is tricky. 30-36 boards, so it is a long session. People are happy with 33 boards. It is for 55 years+. It could be an open F2F duplicate – with ladder for seniors.

**ACTION:** Pass list of any names of people who might play to Patricia. And then do a survey.

People do turn up for food and drink. There could be a launch for an open duplicate with food for the first time. There could be a break to do a survey. The only other day that works at Roke would be a Wednesday.

**DECISION:** Launch on 13<sup>th</sup> July with advertising from Patricia and Kathy, a little survey. Emailing secretaries asking them to pass them onto members may also be helpful. Emphasise good parking and nice to sit outside etc.

- 4. Wessex League** – Sandra Nicholson reports

All matches in both the main and daytime leagues were completed by the due date and a note has been circulated to team captains informing them of the winners and runners-up in each division. Peter Litchfield has finalised the results on EBULeague so that master points can be issued.

In general the season went smoothly although I did have to deal with a couple of complaints about players' behaviour, including one quite serious one about using bad language. Fortunately I was able to persuade the offending player to apologise.

Several captains of teams playing in Division 2 of the main league apparently want to revert to partner alerting rather than self-alerting. The committee has taken the view in the past that self-alerting is

appropriate at this level, but now that the EBU appear to be using partner alerting in all but very high-level competitions, I feel we should be open to a change if the majority want it. A little later in the year I will be asking all captains of teams who are expected to be in this division next year, to canvass their players and report back.

At least two clubs have told me they are likely to be entering extra teams in the daytime league next season and if this results in any increase from the existing total of 23 teams, it will be necessary to reorganise it from three to four divisions.

There would be no entry fee increase for 2026-2027. If any unaffiliated clubs express an interest, please let Sandra know so that she can send an entry form.

What is the easiest way to enter results for Wessex if played F2F. Enter into EBUscore.

We think that John Rowe has the county set of BridgeMates II and laptop. These would be better with Patricia.

5. **Presidents Cup** - All finished. Sandra Nicholson reports

Sadly it seems that the President's Cup is not going to come to light again following its disappearance after being left at the OBC premises last summer. Our trophies are not insured and it would be hugely expensive to replace it with a solid silver equivalent. I propose that we should now buy a fairly basic replacement – costing around £125 – with the details on a base plate rather than on the cup itself, so that it could be repurposed if the original ever does turn up. **Does the committee agree with this? Agreed.**

When players get a cup perhaps they should sign but would it help....

6. **Mercian League** – 7 teams – Sandra Nicholson reports

Although there are currently only 7 teams playing in this new F2F league – with a wide range of ability and experience – the team I am in, and everyone else we've met so far, all seem to be enjoying it.

Malcolm reports: 4 matches to play (a fifth one was forfeited) and scheduled to be played in the next 11 days. Should there be two divisions to avoid matches being too one sided. Or should there be handicapping.

I hope we can find someone to take over its organisation for next year and that there will be enough additional entries to set up two divisions. One or even three more entries making two division of 4 or 5 would be great. To advertise so that it would start in November 2026 (& run until before the AGM the following year).

**ACTION:** KT and SN to finalise full ones for next year

7. **Review of recent competitions**

i) County Pairs

Semifinal in February 2026. 58 entries (53 last year)

(Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> : 31 pairs, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>: 12 pairs, Monday 16<sup>th</sup>: 15 pairs)

| County Pairs       | 1-Feb-26 | 5-Feb-26  | 16-Feb-26  | 1.4% + 25p |             |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
|                    | Entries  | Entry Fee | Square Fee | TOTAL      | Transferred |
| Via Square         | 58       | £8.00     | 0.36       | £443.12    | 21-Feb-26   |
| Free entry (TD)    | 4        | -£4.00    |            | -£16.00    | £426.04     |
| Extra refunds      | 3        | -£0.36    |            | -£1.08     |             |
|                    |          |           |            | £426.04    | ✓           |
| COLLECTING ENTRIES | 1        | -£55.60   |            | -£55.60    |             |
| REALBRIDGE FEE     | 116      | -£0.48    |            | -£55.68    | ✓           |
| EBU MP FEE         | 114      | -£0.46    |            | -£52.44    | ✓           |
|                    |          |           |            | £0.00      |             |
| SURPLUS            |          |           |            | £262.32    |             |

| County Pairs Final | 15-Mar-26 | Entry Fee | Square Fee | 1.4% + 25p |             |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
|                    | Entries   | Fee       | Fee        | TOTAL      | Transferred |
| Via Square         | 20        | £18.00    | 0.5        | £350.00    | 17-Mar-26   |
| TD FEE             | 1         | -£9.00    |            | -£9.00     | £341.00     |
| CORWEN ENTRIES     | 8         | -£72.00   |            | -£576.00   |             |
| REALBRIDGE FEE     | 40        | -£0.84    |            | -£33.60    |             |
| EBU MP FEE         | 80        | -£0.46    |            | -£36.80    |             |
| DEFICIT            |           |           |            | -£305.40   |             |

Deficit overall was £43.08 (Due to EBU removing subsidy for playing in the Corwen)

ii) 9H County Pairs – we would like more entries.

ACTION: SB ask those who played to write up a hand for the OBA Newsletter.

| 9H County Pairs   | 8-Mar-26 | Entry Fee | Square Fee | 1.4% + 25p |             |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
|                   | Entries  | Fee       | Fee        | TOTAL      | Transferred |
| Via Square        | 9        | £8.00     | 0.36       | £68.76     | 16-Mar-26   |
| Refund Fee        | 0        |           | 0.36       | £0.00      |             |
|                   |          |           |            |            | £37.76      |
| RECEIPTS          |          |           |            | £68.76     |             |
| 9H CORWEN ENTRIES | 8        | -£10.00   |            | -£80.00    |             |
| TD FEE            | 1        | -£31.00   |            | -£31.00    |             |
| ADMIN FEE         | 1        | -£13.50   |            | -£13.50    |             |
| REALBRIDGE FEE    | 18       | -£0.36    |            | -£6.48     | ✓           |
| EBU MP FEE        | 18       | -£0.46    |            | -£8.28     |             |
| SURPLUS           |          |           |            | -£70.50    |             |

## Club F2F Swiss Pairs

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Abingdon Swiss Pairs 20 pairs entered – cancelled  
PL to look at Abingdon running one in 2027 in June or July.

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Oxford Swiss Pairs F2F - 22 pairs entered, went ahead

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Home Counties Cup - Aylesbury Aces Swiss Pairs F2F – 29 pairs entered

**SB Action** to write to Oxford and Aylesbury Aces in about 3 weeks time. We decided that OBA would not give permission for open club events in February or March due to the County Pairs and would also only give permission for club open events (i.e. Blue Pointed) when they are four weeks or more from another club or county event (reiteration of our current policy).

**PL to come back to SB** in about a fortnight ref Abingdon's wishes. Abingdon Club could subsidise and it was also felt it would be good use of OBA funds to subsidise. OBA could cover something specific e.g. Blue Point Fee or underwrite any losses (provided entries were 9 tables or above, up to £250).

### DECISION

Clubs should set an entry fee that would break even at 12 tables – and if entries are between 9 & 12 tables OBA would cover this up to £250.

**ACTION: SB** to ask for surplus / deficits from these events

## 8. Premiership – Sandra Nicholson reports

The premiership ladder has been updated to include the results of the President's Cup and now shows Alan Wilson in the lead. However, results can't be finalised until the last session of the current Teams ladder has been played at the end of this month. SN to do this soon.

## 9. Congress

Food has been arranged for the congress with Sandwich Packed Lunches kindly being prepared for players who are ordering in advance. Entries became open around the start of May and are coming in slowly at present.

Comparison on entries suggests a higher number 2026 than previous year

### Tables entered

| Date                     | End |         |         |       |
|--------------------------|-----|---------|---------|-------|
|                          | May | End Jun | End Jul | Event |
| 2026 entries Swiss Pairs | 11  |         |         |       |
| 2025 entries Swiss Pairs | 7   | 17      | 35      | 39    |
| 2024 entries Swiss Pairs | 3   | 7       | 21      | 32    |
| 2026 entries Swiss Teams | 11  |         |         |       |
| 2025 entries Swiss Teams | 4   | 14      | 25      | 31    |
| 2024 entries Swiss Teams | 5   | 11      | 24      | 28    |

SB plans to email all counties by early next week and continue to advertise the congress each Monday. Entries are coming in well, and not many not many for food (the congress subgroup notes that only

they wanted to do it because a few people thought it was an issue - so as long as we can satisfy those few, they'll be happy!

I am checking payments each Monday and recording these on a spreadsheet and in the entry form on Bridgewebs (some columns are only visible when you log on to the entries for Admin use only.)

I am moving income to the savings account each time it goes over 500.00 to get maximum interest to set against the bank charges.

Kathy will be visiting and is keen to sign the contract and check fridges available for packed lunches. The action list is updated.

Another congress meeting is arranged at beginning of July.

**ACTION:** SB to contact counties and ask them to advertise on their websites and to invite entries each week.

## 10. Dates of upcoming competitions

Confirmed

Sat/Sun 15/16 Aug 2026 Congress (Abingdon F2F)

Sun 30th Aug 2026 Friendly Pairs

Sun 13 Sep 2026 F2F Harwell Cup OBC (confirmed on OBC calendar) Patricia to direct

Tue 15 Sep 2026 F2F Henley

Sun 11 Oct 2026 F2F Wallingford Swiss Pairs ??

**ACTION:** PH to check with Wallingford Committee and report back to SB

Sun 8 Nov 2026 Handicap pairs

Sun 6 Dec 2026 Swiss Pairs Championship SB to apply for licence.

Sun 17 Jan 2027 Mixed Pairs (confirmed on OBC calendar) TD Patricia

Suitable dates for club F2F events

Sun 18th April 2027 Oxford Swiss Pairs F2F

Sun 16th May 2027 Home Counties Cup - Aylesbury Aces Swiss Pairs F2F

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> June 2027 ?

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> July 2027

### **ACTION:**

It was considered that OBA would run a Challenge Cup for F2F Teams similar to the one in Kings Sutton to invite unaffiliated clubs to join in. It is friendly and one gets a cake / wine etc.

**ACTION:** KT to discuss with Robert Procter.

## 10. Next competitions sub-committee meetings dates

Date: Mon 19 Oct 2026.

2.30pm on Zoom. Suggested, OK?

AOB

KT: During Burford Café Bridge a prize was awarded to the Congress for one day. It went to Graham Orsmond and Jackie Fairclough.

**ACTION:** SB to encourage them to enter and use it and note their entry is free.

The meeting ended just after 4pm.

Full committee meeting to start at 13.30 BST.