NOTES OF OBA COMPETITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday 26th October 2026 (2.30pm – 4.30pm)

Email addresses for circulation

Kathy Talbot <kathy_talbot@hotmail.co.uk>,
Peter Litchfield <peterlitch@gmail.com>,
Patricia Hones <patricia@hones.org.uk>,
Malcolm Currie <mjc@astroprog.org>,
Sandra Nicholson <sjnich@gmail.com>,
OBA Competitions <obacomp@gmail.com>,

1. **Apologies** Kathy Talbot

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**, no matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda

3. **Wessex League -** Sandra Nicholson

There are a couple of suggestions that have come forward from WL captains recently which I feel are worth putting to the committee.

1. **Match scheduling**. Although I managed to get all the contact details out to captains a little earlier than usual this year, some matches are still not scheduled midway through October. Gus Reuiner, a new captain, has suggested a possible way of making this task easier by using AI to create a pre-organised monthly allocation of matches. I'll forward his email separately.

2**. Making up teams in smaller clubs.** Martin Chadwick, who runs the Bicester team in the main league, has asked if there might be some way to make it easier for captains who have problems making up a team of 8, especially when unforeseen problems arise shortly before an agreed date. He says

"I wonder in general if it would be best to have a "team of 6 movement" in reserve for difficult moments. Obviously would have say two NS scores compared with 1 EW whose result could be doubled and could move who the single pair is around. Perhaps, it would be good to have a Realbridge session always available for this. I.e. arranged that everyone plays 24 boards. It could be scored manually. Perhaps one could ask EBU whether they have encountered this problem. With three groups of 8 boards could each of the 3 pairs being the single pair? In each group the two pairs playing the same way swapping opponents after 4 boards.

Another option would be to have a pool of other club pairs who could be called in an emergency. Frankly I am not too bothered about penalties. Even Bicester's score is not important. Playing Teams of "8" (6) is important. Other teams could play pairs from higher ranked teams at some cost. Bicester does not have this option."

I would be interested to hear the committee's views on these proposals ....

Peter made some comments in advance of the meeting. After discussion it decided to write to the player saying “Thanks for suggestion, we did not feel it was practical”. Also the Wessex League is a team of 8 competition and teams of 6 are not appropriate. Many teams arrange matches by end of February to allow for rearrangements in March.

Martin Chadwich only has 8 players, we agreed teams of 8. He would need to find a 9th player or 5th pair. The alternative is to postpone it and we would ask players to schedule matches early to give time in April if needed. The committee discussed whether playing a pair/player who were members of the club but normally play for another club could be a solution. There would be a penalty to pay for doing this and it could have a knock on effect on the ability of the "borrowed" player/s to play in matches for the club they usually play for. The VP penalty could apply for players from another club (they currently are expected to apply to players from the same club).

ACTION: Sandra to write to these two players replying as suggested

4. **Congress –** Kathy / Malcolm anything to report

	Income			Expenditure
Tables				
43	Swiss Pairs	£5,160.00	TD Fees	£941.30
37	Swiss Teams	£4,440.00	Admin Fees	£228.80
			Caddy fees	£200.00
8	Youth Discounts	-£135.00	EBU Equipment & duplicating	£712.20
	Cafe / Premier Prize	-£90.00	Delivery of Bridge Equipment	£468.00
	Lunches	£265.00	Cash Prizes at around 10%	£880.00
			Wine Prizes (36 bottles)	£219.35
			Room Hire	£1,836.00
			Bank Fees	£51.00
			Engraving	£15.00
			Lunches	£233.08
			Tea / Coffee	£50.00
			Miscellaneous	£38.00
			EBU GP Fee	£1,504.16
	Income	£9,640.00		£7,376.89
				* = estimate
	SURPLUS	£2,263.11		

Great success, it went very smoothly. Malcolm needed to liaise with the TDs ref announcements to thanks earlier so that the winners did not go home. Peter spoke on the packed lunches. 25 per day was fine. But 50 would be much harder work. Malcolm would add an item on the agenda for the beginning of February Congress meeting to discuss whether cost should increase to cover admin fees and whether number should be limited.

5. **Sunday Competitions for 2026-2027 -** confirmed

CONFIRMED

2026

Sun 13 September: Harwell Cup – already run at Oxford with 5 tables

Sun 8 November: Handicap Pairs (RealBridge) Tournament Director: Patricia Hones

Sun 6 December: Swiss Pairs Championship (RealBridge) Tournament Director: Patricia Hones

2027

Sun 17 January: Mixed Pairs, Oxford Tournament Director: Patricia Hones

Sun 7 March: County Pairs Final (RealBridge) Tournament Director: TBC

Sun 14 March: 9H County Pairs final (RealBridge)

Sat/Sun 14/15 Aug: Congress

Sun 29 August: Friendly Pairs (RealBridge)

Sun 12 September: Harwell Cup /Roke)

ACTION: Patricia to request date in Wallingford BC calendar.

6. **Presidents Cup** – alerting regulations; Sandra Claridge stepped down as secretary for this

Sandra Claridge and I were chasing entries for this recently and discovered that two teams that entered last year (Peter Dyer's and Peter Kiff's teams) had not entered because they disliked screens for the RealBridge Presidents Cup matches. We thought that it was either self alerting or alerting as at the table as decided by the two captains. Our summary of alerting on the website is HERE.

There has not been a decision to change this to screens. So we would set the default as 'Self Alerting' with no screens and the Presidents Cup / Plate secretary to ask Dave Tarsky to ask the team captains and set up it up as requested

ACTION SB to add to our summary of alerting.

The draw for the 3 teams to each play two matches and the two leading teams (on IMPs) to go through to the quarterfinal was made, using playing cards numbers 1-9 was made during the meeting. Teams 3,4,8 would be in the triangle.

Peter Litchfield agreed to be Presidents Secretary and Stephen & Peter used EBUknockout to make the remainder of the draw after the end of the meeting, ensuring that the two teams that had played in the triangle could not play each other again until the final (if they continued winning)

ACTION: PL to send info out to the players, following emails from SB being sent using ones from a couple of year ago. SB would be available to assist PL if needed

7. **Mercian League**

Malcolm willing to be secretary and **ACTION: for Malcolm: a more personalised invitation to be sent to the captains of the teams that took part last year**

ACTION: SB to put entry form on website. Entries by 20th November.

If entries less than 8, handicapping using NGS.

If 8+ teams then split into two divisions by NGS score (average of four players) .

Malcolm to contact Robert Procter to find out whether any U3 member would like to join division 2.

8. **Review of recent competitions**

Friendly Pairs	30-Aug-26					
	Entries	Entry Fee		TOTAL		**£90.60 Paid into a/c 31.08.2026**
	12	£8.00	0.36	£91.68	✓	
REFUNDS	3	-£0.36		-£1.08		
ENTRIES				£90.60		
		-				
TD FEE	1	£43.00		-£43.00		
REALBRIDGE FEE	24	-£0.48		-£11.52	✓	
EBU MP FEE	24	-£0.48		-£11.52	✓	
		-				
PRIZE	1	£12.00		-£12.00		
SURPLUS				£12.56		

Harwell Cup	13-Sep-26					**£211.40 Paid into a/c 13.09.2026**
	Entries	Entry Fee		TOTAL		
	5	£48.00	0.92	£235.40		
TD FREE ENTRY	1	-£24.00		-£24.00		
ROOM HIRE				-£88.00	Est	
EBU MP FEE	20	-£0.96		-£19.20	✓	
REFRESHMENTS				-£121.50		
PRESIDENTS CUP PRIZES	2	-£28.00		-£56.00		
DEFICIT				-£73.30		

Cafe Bridge Henley	15-Sep-26 Entries	Entry Fee	TOTAL	**£5,155.40 Transferred from entries to OBA A/C**
	50	£105.00	£5,250.00	
SQUARE FEES	50	-£1.72	-£86.00	
REFUND FEES	5	-£1.72	-£8.60	
		-		
LUNCHES		£2,570.80		
DRINKS / LEANDER				
VENUE		-£300.00		
PRIZES		-£52.00		
ADMIN		-£20.00		
BOARDS		-£17.50		
DIRECTING		-£370.85		
TRAVEL EXP		-£95.70		
			-	
	COSTS		£3,521.45	
SURPLUS			£1,728.55	

9. Dividing up clubs amongst officers – moved to full committee meeting.

10. Club F2F Blue Pointed Events (Swiss Pairs)

Sun 11th October 2026 Wallingford Swiss Pairs – not F2F but on RealBridge

Sun 18th April 2027 Oxford Swiss Pairs

Sun 16th May 2027 tbc Home Counties Cup - Aylesbury Aces Swiss Pairs F2F not yet decided

Sun 13th June 2027 Abingdon Swiss Pairs

11. **County Pairs 2026-2027**

Qualifying weeks: weeks commencing 16th November, 7th December or 4th January entitle pairs with 50% or more to play in one of three County Pairs Semifinals. The Thursday pairs league on 19th November is included.

Thu 4 Feb 2027, Sun 7 Feb 2027, Mon 15 Feb 2027 **County Pairs Semis**

Sun 7 Mar 2027 County Pairs Final.

12. **F2F Pairs Roke (formerly seniors pairs)**

Lots of advertising, a questionnaire and a relaunch lunch have not increased entries. Only 3 tables in September with the lunch and no entries in October.

It was decided not to continue this event at Roke. Consider a one off Seniors competition on a Sunday.

Trophy to be collected and used for a one off event.

ACTION: SB to indicate this on website. PH to email players. SB to refund any that have paid

12. **Next competitions sub-committee meetings dates**

Suggested Dates are: Mon 25 Jan 2027, PL cannot make this so possibly 8 Feb 2027?

Mon 24 May 2027, Monday 11 Oct 2027.

2.30pm on Zoom. Suggested, OK?

ACTION: SB to check out dates with Kathy and then confirm

13. **AOB**

Sandra Nicholson: should we be looking for another member? Ideas? Someone from social bridge

ACTION: MC to speak to Robert.

Stephen offered the chance to share some of the things that he does by someone doing it for a year. Patricia said she would be interested in doing one competition.

ACTION: PH to reflect and then let SB know.