

## Oxfordshire Bridge Association: Reports for 2010 AGM

### Chairman

This time last year we had a Treasurer designate, no Chairman and no Secretary. The year has passed extremely quickly and I would particularly like to thank Sandra Nicholson for the huge task of acting as Secretary and equally Dinah Lintott for taking over the finances so effectively to allow me to act as Chairman. The contribution of other officers and members of the Management Committee is also much appreciated. I do not intend to go into detail about matters that are covered elsewhere in the individual officers' reports but would like to mention the role of Lynne Hayes in organising our annual Green-Pointed Congress: this was run for the first time in 2009 as a combined two-day event and was very successful, both in attracting a good field of entries and in financial terms. I would also like to congratulate all those players who have won OBA events this year, and the many Oxfordshire players who have done well on the wider bridge scene during the year.

The introduction of play to play marks a significant change in the way that the EBU seeks to finance its operations. This has resulted in changes at County level both through the fall in affiliated clubs and in the substantial increase in bridge players who have recently become members of the EBU and OBA under these arrangements. We welcome all new members.

There are three pieces of special business at this meeting -

♣ Approval of County P2P fee - 6p per player per session represents an approximate breakeven for the County. However in the light of information that was prematurely disseminated, the fee for 2010/2011 was limited to 3p, the cost of which is easily absorbed within our existing finances. The Management Committee agreed it would be sensible to increase the amount to 6p in the second year of operation, from April 2011: we will be asking the AGM to ratify this decision

♣ Amendments to the Wessex League arrangements – after substantial debate on the role of clubs that no longer satisfy the EBU requirement regarding frequency of duplicate events and the consequences for affiliation, the Management Committee recommends changes to the Wessex League by-laws to permit such clubs to continue to participate. I hope that this will help the Wessex League to continue to thrive and support the County squads that continue to maintain Oxfordshire as a leading County in regional events

♣ The approval of a new constitution – Much of the groundwork for these changes was laid by my predecessor, John Slater, and I am grateful for his efforts to bring us up to date and in line with the EBU's present requirements

The County's finances remain on a sound footing and I would hope that, over the next year, we can use some of our accumulated surplus to help promote a greater awareness of bridge within the County, including the level of participation in Tuesday County night duplicates and in a number of competitions where involvement has been on the decline. There are other challenges on which I hope we can make further progress this next year including the integration of website information and the development of the County's education role.

We are dependent on volunteers to fill the officer positions on the Management Committee and this year we thank Maxine Henry and Nick Smith for their contributions in the past, and welcome Ian Angus and Marryat Stevens who have joined the group during the year. I am grateful to all who play a part in the success of bridge in Oxfordshire. I would particularly like to mark the contribution of Bill McCarthy at Thame BC and for the County over many years and in recognition of this, I am proposing that he should be nominated for consideration for an EBU “Dimmie Fleming” award, given at the discretion of the EBU to people who are judged to have made an outstanding contribution over the years at County and club level.

John Briggs

### **Secretary**

Other than the usual duties of sending out agendas, collating officers’ reports, and recording meetings and the action points arising from them, additional work during the year has mostly been associated with the introduction of P2P and Universal Membership. There has been a certain amount of correspondence with the EBU, and earlier in the year a protracted debate about the position of clubs without regular duplicate sessions, but my main activity over the last few months has been planning and implementing the sending of a special “welcome letter” from the Chairman to all the new members who have been co-opted into both the EBU and the OBA from 1 April. Since they will not get a county prospectus until the next one is published in the autumn, the letter aimed to explain what the OBA is, how it is run and what it does, tell them about the various competitions that we organise, and invite them to attend the AGM if they wished. It also stressed that we believe bridge should be played in a friendly, welcoming and courteous environment.

Together with Martin Pool of the EBU Board, I have also prepared the proposed amendments to the County Constitution, which are on the agenda for discussion at the AGM. I am pleased to be able to report that these were formally approved by the EBU Board at its meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> and so if they are agreed at the AGM, the new Constitution can come into effect immediately.

Sandra Nicholson

### **EBU Shareholders**

During the year Peter Baxter moved out of the county and therefore resigned as an OBA Shareholder. His place was taken pro. tem. by the current Secretary, Sandra Nicholson, who is willing to continue as a Shareholder if required. We are grateful to Peter for his previous efforts in the role and also warmly congratulate him, both on his non-playing captain role for the England Seniors team who won the World Championship last September, and on his subsequent election to the EBU Selection Committee.

The EBU AGM in October 2009, and the Shareholders Meeting held in March 2010, were inevitably mainly focused on the introduction of Pay to Play and Universal Membership. Despite continuing reservations from some counties, overall it was reported that the numbers of clubs affiliating were more or less as expected and the necessary IT infrastructure had been successfully implemented in-house, with a considerable cost saving. Sadly, John Carter, the EBU Board Member who had been overseeing the plans for the introduction of the National Grading Scheme, died earlier this year, which will delay progress in this area.

The Masterpoints and Licensing regulations have been updated to take account of Pay to Play, the White Book has been revised (available on line only), and a new “Tangerine Book”, which is a simplified version of the Orange Book, has been written and published on line, with the intention that it will be more suitable for the needs of ordinary club players and TDs. Additional competitions and weekend events are also being planned to encourage the involvement of more club players.

Counties are currently being consulted over a review of voting rights following the introduction of Universal Membership.

Brenda Harris, Sue Maxwell, Sandra Nicholson

### **Membership Secretary**

Last year the figures for OBA membership were:

763 full members; 79 bridge for all; 52 dual members

Total for last year 894

This year, as at 1 June, there were:

1260 full members, +13 made up of dual members and people who live in the county, but do not play at an affiliated club

Total so far this year 1273.

The difference of course is almost entirely due to the introduction of Universal Membership via Pay to Play.

Some adjustments are probably still due as we seem to have a number of new members who are listed as having primary affiliation to Oxfordshire because they live in the county, but do not belong to any OBA club. It is likely that many of these will transfer to the county to which their club is affiliated, e.g. Berks & Bucks: however, this may be offset by the same happening in the reverse direction.

Maxine Henry

### **Tournament Secretary**

Most competitions have been fairly well supported through the year, although the Oxford Times Pairs for novices had to be put back from before Christmas until May. Entries for the Congress started to come in very early and continue at a good rate. At present (24 May) we have 32 teams and 58 pairs - about double the numbers at this stage last year.

Alan Grunwald

### **Match Secretary**

Oxfordshire has had a relatively successful year in the Midlands League, narrowly missing out on the top spot in the Dawes/first division by 3VPs. We regained the Porters Trophy/2nd division title with 16VPs to spare and finished 3rd in the third division.

I'm in the process of finalising the Midlands League fixtures for the forthcoming season. Potential clashes with the Premier League and the Oxford Times Cup have been noted and I'm working to resolve these. There are likely to be a few changes to the published draft diary and the county squad will be informed of these shortly.

Ian Angus\_

## Wessex League, Presidents Cup and Chester Cup

A few minor problems but nothing of major concern. There are a few unrelated matters to discuss but these will appear at the end of this report.

### Wessex League

Thirty nine teams (of eight) participated with eight teams in each of divisions one to four. Slight problem near the end of the season when the “Volcanic Ash situation” forced a match to be delayed but fortunately the captains managed to play the match before the end of April.

*Please see comments at end of this report.*

Winners and runners-up in each division are detailed below.

Division 1 Winner : Menagerie A.  
Second: Wallingford A

Division 2 Winner : Abingdon A  
Second : Highworth

Division 3 Winner :Summertown A  
Second : Thame B

Division 4 Winner : Witney  
Second: Aylesbury C

Division 5 Winner : University B  
Second : Oxford E

### Presidents Cup (Greenpointed knockout teams of four)

Just eight teams entered: very disappointing turnout for what is regarded as our most important teams-of- four event.

I am not sure what the problem is here but it may well be something to do with the fact that matches are of thirty two boards, with a possibly late finish if played during the week. Some players are reluctant to give up part of their weekend so this may reduce the entry numbers?

The event does attract most of the county`s better players so perhaps this in itself deters players from entering? If so, it`s a shame because playing against decent opposition does help each of us improve. Maybe there is just so much bridge available that individuals are just more selective?

*The issue has been discussed in Management Committee and it is our intention to ask clubs to help in publicising the event nearer the time that entries are usually submitted.*

Winners of the Trophy this season were Mike Robinson`s team...names follow

Mike Robinson, Rob Procter, Ian Angus, Richard Haydon, Nathan Piper and Dave Thomas.

As a result of the win, some of these players qualify to represent the county in the forthcoming Pachabo Cup (12th and 13th June....weekend before this AGM)

Runners-up were Lynne Hayes` team of :  
Lynne Hayes, Peter Briggs, Beryl Kerr and Chris Kerr.

#### Chester Cup (league of all-play-all with matches teams of four)

Seven teams participated this season with matches of just 24 boards. Again, it`s a pity that so few members enter as it is a more social event and less cut-throat than the knockout format of the aforementioned event.

Winners this year were Mike Brown`s team of  
Mike Brown, Gillian Lonsdale, Clive Keep, John Slater and Nigel Wilkes.

Runners-up were Kathy Talbot`s team of  
Kathy Talbot, Denis Talbot, Ian Angus, Rob Procter and Nick Smith.

Congratulations go to all the winners.

#### Matters for discussion

Following implementation of P2P, only affiliated clubs will be eligible to participate in future competitions for the Garden Cities Trophy Participants are the teams of eight which qualify from counties by whatever methods are selected by counties: in our case it is the winners of division one of the Wessex League.

There are two ways we can do this in future:

- a) Highest affiliated club in division one
- b) Highest affiliated club in division one only taking into account matches between affiliated clubs.

*b) Seems slightly fairer but we could end up with an affiliated club winning the Wessex League but not qualifying for the Garden Cities. Okay, it is unlikely but it could happen.*

The second matter to discuss involves the number of teams in each division of the Wessex. We really do not wish to “chop and change” divisions about at very short notice....for a start it is unfair on captains and players. Can we please reach agreement that, where at all possible, we will retain the present five division format and avoid last minute structural changes. The present rules state the number of divisions should change as entry numbers vary (*with latitude in transitional years*) Okay, if numbers vary considerably one season then we could promote a team (or teams to even out the divisions) but a large structural change should be avoided if at all possible.

Geoff Nicholas

## Oxfordshire Bridge Association Accounts 2009-10

### Receipts and Payments 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

	2009/10			2008/9		
	Receipts	Payments	Net	Receipts	Payments	Net
Tuesday Duplicate / Capitation	6225.90	4319.95	1905.95	6829.00	4426.10	2402.90
Membership	2909.00	132.00	2777.00	2605.00	6.00	2599.00
Brochure / Newsletter	0.00	879.24	-879.24	0.00	897.63	-897.63
Committee Expenses, Directors Courses, etc	0.00	205.84	-205.84	0.00	154.98	-154.98
Gifts /Donations				0.00	15.16	-15.16
Honours Board	0.00	770.30	-770.30			
Trophies and Engraving	0.00	280.08	-280.08	0.00	478.57	-478.57
Computer Grant	0.00	195.53	-195.53	0.00	225.00	-225.00
Duplimate, Cards, Boards				0.00	38.00	-38.00
Wessex League / Garden Cities	390.00	350.80	39.20	380.00	331.34	48.66
President's Cup / Pachabo	128.00	292.40	-164.40	192.00	340.50	-148.50
Chester Cup	112.00	89.60	22.40	128.00	89.50	38.50
Mens Pairs	153.00	172.25	-19.25	195.50	149.56	45.94
Ladies Pairs	153.00	172.25	-19.25	136.00	120.54	15.46
Mixed Pairs	442.00	304.00	138.00	352.50	254.12	98.38
Swiss Pairs	493.00	308.50	184.50	502.00	308.54	193.46
County Pairs / Corwen	345.00	1113.70	-768.70	120.00	1164.74	-1044.74
Beck Cup	223.00	309.50	-86.50	306.00	327.17	-21.17
OBA Simultaneous Pairs	538.50	437.36	101.14	552.00	399.98	152.02
Harwell Cup	297.50	256.80	40.70	161.50	199.00	-37.50
Oxford Times Cup	0.00	11.50	-11.50	130.00	215.10	-85.10
Pro-Am	138.00	18.75	119.25	177.00	25.88	151.12
Seniors Pairs	2367.50	1400.20	967.30	1822.50	2274.62	-452.12
Golfprint	204.00	112.96	91.04	120.00	116.96	3.04
Dawes	328.00	740.00	-412.00	720.00	1033.50	-313.50
Tollemache	0.00	320.00	-320.00	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Oxford Congress 2009	6720.50	4897.57	1822.93	4474.00	3772.10	701.90
Green Point Event				3641.00	2822.92	818.08
Oxford Congress 2010	0.00	227.50	-227.50	0.00	207.00	-207.00
Invitation Events				0.00	50.00	-50.00
Interest/bank charges/adjustments	419.75	0.00	419.75	588.10	0.00	588.10
Junior Bridge				0.00	25.00	-25.00
Robson Seminar	132.00	608.00	-476.00	768.00	537.00	231.00
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>22719.65</b>	<b>18926.58</b>	<b>3793.07</b>	<b>24900.10</b>	<b>21306.51</b>	<b>3593.59</b>

## Oxfordshire Bridge Association Balance Sheet 2009-2010

<b>31-Mar-10</b>		<b>31-Mar-09</b>
21807.25	Balance brought forward	18213.66
3793.07	Surplus for the year	3593.59
25600.32	Balance carried forward	21807.25
0.00	Cash in hand	161.40
4242.23	Current bank account	3702.71
21358.09	Building society account	17943.14
<b>25600.32</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21807.25</b>

### Auditor's report to the members of Oxfordshire Bridge Association

In my opinion the information set out in the receipts and payments account for the year ended 31st March 2010 and the balance sheet set out above give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's finances for that year.

May 2010

Hon. Auditor

## Comments on the 2009-2010 OBA Accounts

### Receipts and Payments:

1. The attendance on a Tuesday night was lower than 2008/9.
2. The membership fee was increased from £3 to £4 in April 2009 and receipts were therefore higher. However, with the advent of P2P it is uncertain how much county membership income will be generated. It is likely to be considerably less than in 2009/2010.
3. Some items can appear twice in a year or not at all depending when the invoice was paid. For example, the item for updating the Honours Board includes both 2007/8 and 2008/9.
4. In 2009/10 there was no bill for the hire of Roke for the Seniors, though there were two bills in the previous year.
5. It was agreed at the 2008 AGM that expenses other than entry fees would no longer be paid for the Tollemache, Corwen and Pachabo. In spring 2009 no semi-final was played in the County Pairs, but expenses for the Corwen were paid. In spring 2010 there were two semi-finals, thus increasing the cost of room hire, directing, etc.
6. The Oxford Times Cup was not played until May 2010, but some preparations were made in the previous financial year
7. The Golfprint event charged standard entry fees and had more entrants.
8. In 2008 the Oxford Congress and Green Point Event were run as separate events. In 2009 they were combined in one Oxford Congress.

**Assets:** The OBA owns the following assets:

- Various Cups and Trophies –  
The current insurance value is approximately £6000  
One silver trophy has been missing for several years but is being replaced.
- The Duplimate  
The machine, boards, cases for boards and a printer were bought in 2005/6 for £8343.02
- The Bridgemates  
These were bought in 2006 for £1142.67

Dinah Lintott, May 2010