

OBA Officers' Reports for Management Committee meeting on 23rd March 2011

Chairman

No report received in advance.

Treasurer

Balance in Current and Savings Accounts

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u> 01/03/2010	<u>Balance</u> 01/03/2011
Cash in Hand	£111.00	£0.0
Lloyds Current Account	£ 4,814.69	£ 3,731.07
Standard Life Savings Account	£21,759.21	£ 24,759.21

The financial year ends on 31st March.

Numbers for Tuesday duplicate are down over the year, and membership income is considerably down. Any profit for the year will come from the congress in the summer.

Dinah Lintott

Secretary: including correspondence

A reply was sent to the EBU in December indicating our views on club involvement in EBU governance, along the lines discussed at the previous meeting. Following consultation with the Chief TD, a reply was also sent to the EBU in January in response to proposals for amendments to the Master Points and Licensing arrangements. This received no immediate response, but will apparently be discussed together with replies from other Counties at the Board meeting in April.

Blewbury Bridge Club has formally applied to transfer its primary allegiance to Oxfordshire – see Agenda.

As agreed at the previous meeting, I purchased a copy of DealMaster Pro for use by the County and have now passed it on to Kate Gould. This should mean that in future, we can include hand analysis in the hand records for County Night and other County events.

I have written to Freda McCarthy to express our thanks for all the work that Bill did for the County during his lifetime, and to let her know that we have sent a small donation to Sobell House in his memory.

Sandra Nicholson

Chief Tournament Director

The uploading of results for Tuesday nights is now working efficiently and with slight modifications will be ready for uploading pdf versions of hand copies with likely contracts. The procedure for Sunday events is still being discussed by Alan and Stephen to ensure a similar automatic system that allows them to appear on the website if Alan and Stephen are not available to upload.

The Tournament committee has not yet met to discuss rules.

Kate Gould is duplicating boards for the County and for other clubs with the support of Stuart McPhee these are being delivered to the club. This is working well and many thanks to Kate and Dave for working hard to get the system up and running.

The Master points for Dawes League from previous years have been sent to me and having contacted the EBU it is possible to upload these in arrears using procedures used before P2P. These will be sent to the EBU in the week commencing 28 Feb.

Stephen Brown

Membership Secretary

There are currently 1312 members of OBA listed on the EBU spreadsheet. This compares with 1314 listed members as reported to the December Management meeting. The number of prospectuses posted to new members since the beginning of 2011 is 57. Clearly 59 individuals left OBA during this period for reasons that are not known. In addition there are 49 Dual Members and 5 Direct members of OBA. *Vicky Fleming*

Tournament Secretary

Tournament entries are going fairly well. We have had acceptances for the Beck Cup from eight neighbouring counties, with a ninth saying they "might possibly" be able to get a team together. This allows us to field four teams from Oxfordshire - the regulation states that no more than one third of the teams may be Oxon teams. We had 12 teams in the Harwell Cup, which is used as a qualifier, and the Tournament Committee (Geoff, Stephen and I) agreed that we would not invite anyone who finished outside the top half; of these six teams, one was made up of Associate Members - who are ineligible - and one was unavailable. I have contacted the other four teams but am still (10/3) awaiting replies. (I had a telephone call in the last day or two from the captain of the Associate Members' team asking about the regulations for the Beck Cup, and he was happy to accept his team's ineligibility.)

I have already had one entry for the teams event at the Congress!

Alan Grunwald

Webmaster

I believe the web site is going fairly well. However I am beginning to hear vague complaints from people who find that it does not offer all the facilities they hope for. I am cautious about making ad hoc changes on the basis of snatched conversations and brief exchanges of email since a) one person's vast improvement is another's huge deterioration, b) any change brings with it a risk that it will break something; and c) it all takes time and effort. I would welcome it if the management committee would act as a clearinghouse for non-trivial changes. Recent correspondence about adding makeable contracts to the hand records distributed on Tuesday County nights illustrates the problem; it is possible to add the hand records to the web site, and this could be done in several ways. No consensus has been reached about how to do this, and no-one has made any comment at all as to whether we wish to extend this to Sunday competitions. *Alan Grunwald*

EBU Shareholders

No Shareholders' meeting has been held since the AGM in October. The next meeting will be held on 13th April. A Chairmen's meeting is due to be held in June. *Sandra Nicholson/Brenda Harris/Sue Maxwell*

Publicity Officer

Andrew Robson Seminar 7 April: All 72 places were sold 2 months BEFORE the event. There are currently 24 on the waiting list and growing! Profit from this event will be considerably less than in previous years as Andrew, until this year, had not increased his fee for 5 years. Future entry fees will therefore need to be increased.

Advance Publicity for OBA Events: There were 4 omissions under this section of the Dec newsletter as compiled by its new editor who has recently been granted sole input. For the past 10 years I have been responsible for this aspect of my role as Publicity Officer. Consequently I have had to issue separate "Official Listings of OBA Events". The extra costs (photocopying & dispatching to all clubs 3Xs per annum) will be borne by OBA.

Oxford Times Cup 15 May: In an endeavour to increase entries, I shall be distributing leaflets at the Robson seminar.

Action Point "New Intermediate level for Tues nights": Am still awaiting list of teachers prior to any action!

Brenda Harris

Match Secretary

All three teams have slipped out of contention in the Midlands league (all 4th in their respective divisions) with one match to play. It's the first time in recent years that we haven't been in challenging or won at least one of the leagues. The new season starts in May and hopefully we can get back to our winning ways.

Ian Angus

President's/Chester/Wessex League Secretary

All competitions progressing okay...there have been a few postponements due to the bad weather before Xmas but I believe most have now been rescheduled.

Geoff

Nicholas

Youth Officer

Junior Bridge in Oxfordshire is really taking off with over 200 school children in the South of Oxfordshire now playing bridge regularly within a school. In North Oxfordshire we are trailing a bit behind, but recently Holly Kilpatrick and Rob Dixon have gone along to the training and either have or are planning to start bridge clubs in their schools. I have a few other prospects in the pipeline, and I am hoping to be able to expand into new schools in the future.

For the first time this year we are going to send junior bridge players to the Schools Challenge Cup in Loughborough on the 19th of March. There are 12 students going to play minibridge and at least one team going up to play full bridge. In the future I would like to be able to support these by organising and funding transport for them next year. After doing a bit research this time around it appears that I can rent a mini-bus which I am licensed to drive for approximately £300 + petrol. This has had to be a full weekend rental as I have not found a rental place that will allow the return of a minibus on Saturday evening and not charged you for Sunday. I am happy to try and get a school to lend me a mini-bus but I can see an issue with insurance if we try and use this route.

I have been supporting the Junior Teach in Loughborough every year, and historically Reading and Brighton have shown up with a minibus full of kids for the weekend. I would love Oxfordshire to be the next group of children to take up. It is a fantastic opportunity for Children to meet like minded people and play a lot of bridge in a weekend, so I would like funding to take a minibus up to Loughborough for that as well (I imagine this would be marginally more as recently this has been over the bank holiday weekend.)

We would like to run a further set of lessons to support teachers and helpers to teach bridge within schools (previously this has been focusing on minibridge). We are planning to run 3 courses at £250 each. Bucks Bridge association has offered to pay for half of this so it would be great if OBA could pay the other half (total of £375).

Within Oxfordshire, the group running school bridge in South Oxfordshire are interested in renting a town hall in Wantage once a week on Sundays to try and run regular bridge sessions for any juniors. Wantage Bridge Club have offered to lend them all of their resources for free which is great. They have asked for help funding this. There are some issues to be addressed, e.g. if we fund this would be responsible and liable? Would it be badged as an OBA event, etc. They are hoping to run this from September to March, at least to start off with, and they have not decided if they will be doing this every week or every other week. If this is every other week it would be at a cost of $14 \times £35 = £490$. If it was every week it would be twice that at £980.

I am also keen to setup a schools league within Oxfordshire. A few schools have already started to play each other which is a great start. So I am hoping to extend this to something along the lines

- Summary of possible funding from the OBA:
- 2x£300-£400 for two weekend rentals for a minibus
- £375 for 4 teaching sessions for the existing 40 helpers (spaces for up to 50).
- £490 or £980 pounds for rent for Wantage Town Hall.
- Costs for setting up a schools league etc.

Stevenson

Marryat

Education Officer (*currently vacant*)

SJN, 12.3.2011