

OBC CIO Committee reports For the year 2018-2019

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Bridge Committee Annual Report 2018–2019

The BC held six meetings during the year; five were scheduled, and the sixth was an emergency meeting to discuss the abandoned second round of the Swiss Pairs competition. The committee's biggest challenge of the year was to make sure that bridge continued to run smoothly during the time that the club was based at Oxford City Football Club, and to re-establish bridge at 147 Banbury Road when we moved back in in December. This was achieved successfully, thanks to the hard work of many people. In addition to this, the committee's work has included running competitions and simultaneous pairs events, supervising hosting, deciding on room allocations, updating documents, writing new movements, organising scoring, dealing, and teams representing the club in outside competitions, and ensuring that all the facilities required to play bridge are in place.

Bridge sessions

We continue to run five regular sessions of duplicate bridge per week (three in the daytime and two in the evenings). In addition, the BC provides logistical support for the two Learn and Play and two Gentle Duplicate sessions a week that are run by the Education Committee.

It was clear that some members stopped playing, or played less frequently, while the club was based at OCFC. In some respects this was quite fortunate, as we were limited to a maximum of 16 tables, and some sessions, particularly Tuesday mornings, regularly attract more than this. We had to turn people away on one morning only due to lack of space. Numbers on Monday and Friday mornings have risen since we moved back to Banbury Road in December, however those on Wednesday and Friday evenings continue to fall when compared to 2017-2018.

The Thursday afternoon rubber bridge session has been discontinued.

Four members of the committee visited Stratford-upon-Avon Bridge Club in July to view their set up and play in one of their daytime sessions.

Hosting systems were set up for Monday and Friday mornings in December. This means that all the club's regular bridge sessions are now hosted, with the exception of the Wednesday and Friday evening teams sessions. Table tokens, issued by hosts, are used to allocate players to their seats in all pairs sessions.

Tuesday morning criteria have been widened so that players with a lot of Masterpoints, but a relatively low NGS, may play with a stronger partner.

New bridge equipment, including bidding boxes, Bridgemates and table cards, was acquired in December to cater for the increased numbers of tables.

A joint training session for directors and scorers was run in March to show them how things work in the newly refurbished premises, and in particular, how to use the AV equipment. Additional support has been provided at some of the more well-attended

morning sessions to help directors and scorers with getting their sessions started and using the new technology.

Competitions and Simultaneous pairs

A full calendar of club competitions and simultaneous pairs events was run during the year, including two heats of the Children in Need Sim Pairs in November.

Our three annual Sunday competitions were all run during the January to March period, to avoid holding them at OCFC. In addition, the club ran a heat of the EBU Master Pairs in February, and the EBU ran a heat of the Portland Pairs (mixed pairs) competition in March. An online booking system was set up to manage bookings and take card payments for events that need to be prebooked.

Gentle Duplicate and Tuesday morning sessions ran into problems running sims events when they had a half table. This meant that they had to play 20 boards, using an unfamiliar movement, with the result that the sessions ran late and some players had to leave before the end. In future we will provide three hosts for sims events at these sessions, to eliminate the chance of a half table.

The second round of the Swiss Teams competition (run in December) had to be abandoned when two sets of boards were mixed up. It was rerun in February; table money was refunded to those who played in December.

The club continues to run nine ladder competitions - seven pairs ladders and two teams ladders. New trophies were purchased for the two Gentle Duplicate ladders. Updating the honours boards was deferred.

Bookings were opened for a Blue-pointed Swiss Pairs event, run jointly with Summertown Bridge Club, due to take place in June. Proceeds will be divided between two charities - Pancreatic Cancer UK and Safeline.

Dealing

There were several changes to the dealing team during the year, with some people leaving, and others joining to take their place. The dealing team dealt 477 cases of cards in the 12 months ending 31 March 2019. That is 12,690 packs. This doesn't include cards dealt for teaching sessions, or occasional one-off deals.

Room allocations

The proposed Education programme for 2019-2020 was approved, while ensuring that there will still be space for a possible daytime social bridge session on Wednesdays or Thursdays. The Thursday evening practice hands session is to be moved to Wednesday evenings. This leaves the front and middle rooms free for a new County Players session on Thursday evenings.

Scoring and movements

We have 23 trained scorers (although not all of them score on a regular basis) plus five more in training. Steve Fisher and Colin Wels ran training sessions for new scorers in September.

The new scoring laptop works well and scoring software has been updated regularly. Key EBUScore files are stored in GDrive to enable the Chief Scorer to correct results from home. BridgeTimer software was introduced in February. This is now being used in most bridge sessions, and has proved useful in helping to keep sessions to time. Results are now being displayed on the TV monitors at the end of the session.

New movements have been written for Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings to cater for larger numbers of tables. We now have single movements for up to 20 tables on Monday/Friday mornings, and 22 tables on Tuesday mornings. Each type of session now has its own colour-coded binder and sets of laminated table cards. New table layout diagrams have been created to take account of the new layout at the club.

Teams

The 2018-2019 Wessex League season has been one of mixed fortunes. In division 1, the A team finished third, having lost one match and their opponents having defaulted in two matches; the B team just escaped relegation, thanks to another team defaulting. In division 2, the C team finished seventh and faces the prospect of relegation. In division 3, the D team finished second and is likely to be promoted; while the E team finished eighth and is likely to be relegated. In division 4, the F & G teams finished fourth and fifth respectively. The G team continues to provide a good way in to teams bridge for novices.

Four teams represented OBC in the National Inter-club Knockout (the NICKO). The A and C teams won their first matches but were both knocked out in Round 2. The B and D teams were knocked out in Round 1 but have now reached Round 3 of the Plate competition.

Liza Furnival

Tournament Secretary/Chair of the Bridge Committee

May 2019

Conduct Committee Annual Report 2019

1. Scope

This report is based on activities of the Committee in the last year and following review and discussion at a joint meeting of the Conduct Committee and Conduct Panel held at the Oxford Bridge Club on April 10th 2019.

2. Review of Complaints

Between April 2018 and March 2019, the Conduct Committee were referred three complaints for investigation. Two complaints were upheld and resolved according to the Terms of Reference of the Conduct Committee. One complaint was dismissed because of insufficient evidence. There were no referrals to the Disciplinary Committee. The Committee continue to hold the view that formal complaints would be better resolved contemporaneously if the TD is called at the time of alleged offence.

3. Clarification of the ToR of the Conduct Committee

In the last year the Trustees have approved a document and algorithm that define and clarify the procedures of the Conduct and Disciplinary Committees. This has been circulated to members for consultation. The selection and term of membership of the committee is defined in the ToR. Nominations for membership are welcome for 2019/20. Committee membership is considered at the first meeting of the Trustees after the AGM.

4. Liaison between the Directors and Conduct Committee.

The Conduct Committee has received a verbal report from the Chief TD on Directors' Guidance. The objective is to ensure the standard of best behaviour at bridge is applied consistently across every session. Sue Smith and Peter Sherry have offered to serve as Conduct Committee liaison officers to liaise with the Chief TD.

4. Membership of the Panel 2018/2019

Conduct Committee: Denis Talbot (Conduct Officer and Chair), Martin Illingworth, John Lewis-Crosby, Sue Burge, Graham Walcroft, Lis Long

Panel Members: Richard Sills, Vicky Fleming, Mary Bennett, Richard Whittington, Emily Middleton, John Deech, Sue Smith, Peter Sherry, Cliff Pavelin, Holly Kilpatrick.

5. Future meetings

The Conduct Committee will meet face to face annually, usually in March or April. An annual report is prepared for the Trustees meeting in July each year. Extra-ordinary meetings are arranged on an *ad hoc* basis as required.

Denis Talbot April, 2019

Conduct Officer and Chairman, Oxford Bridge Club CIO Conduct Committee

Education Committee's Annual Report 2019

This has been a very full year for OBS, the education side of OBC. This has largely been coordinated by the huge efforts of Vicky Fleming, and she has been supported by a small army of teachers, tutors and administrators.

The club's in-house education programme for beginners began in September 2016. The large number of people interested in learning to play Bridge surprised us then and continues to do so. The club's programme of lessons, support sessions, Supervised Play and Novice Duplicate Bridge is now used by the EBU's Club Liaison Officer as an example to other clubs of what can be achieved. Maintaining the programme of fourteen/fifteen sessions per week during term-time requires a large team of teachers, session leaders and volunteers. Members continue to respond positively to requests for help which is greatly appreciated.

Cecilia Lloyd has been the Education Administrator since the start of OBS. She has worked tirelessly and effectively with wisdom and skill to ensure the success of the programme. Sadly, she has now resigned from this voluntary post - she will be missed. The introduction of online payments at the time of booking for all our courses from January 2019 reduced the work load of the administrator significantly. The Education Manager has taken on the relatively small administrative tasks relating to bookings that remain. A new marketing role is evolving that addresses the growing needs of OBS in this area. We are fortunate to have found a volunteer with direct experience in a work environment of the platforms that the club uses.

A new initiative in the current year has been the introduction of weekend courses for beginners - Fast Start Bridge. The first such weekend was over-subscribed so a second one was given. Many of these students have remained connected with the club either by signing up for lessons or by attending Practice Hands sessions. In the last year, a total of 80 beginners have been introduced to Bridge through the year 1 classes and the Fast Start Bridge weekends.

Our first students 'graduated' from the two-year Bridge for All course in July 2018. They were keen to learn more, so a 'year 3' programme of Saturday Tutorials was introduced for the autumn term, Aspects of Play for the second term and a short course on Defence for the third term. Many 'graduates' are now playing regularly in club sessions. Six of them are scorers for the club and four have embarked on the Club Director training course, demonstrating that an education programme not only increases player numbers but also expands the team of people running the club's regular sessions. The importance of the education programme to the long-term survival of the club should not be underestimated.

OBS organises 4 sessions of duplicate per week, 2 sessions of Learn and Play and 2 sessions of Gentle Duplicate. The numbers attending these have remained constant throughout the year, as people move from the lessons into Learn and Play and then move on into Gentle Duplicate, before then moving on into Tuesday morning, Monday/Friday morning sessions and beyond. The numbers flowing through this system has been very encouraging. We are very grateful to those willing to direct, score and be hosts for these sessions.

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Infrastructure committee Annual Report

Annual report by Laws and Ethics Committee for year ending 31st March 2019

The Law & Ethics Committee (LEC) met four times during the year. Discussions were wide-ranging. Highlights include:

- As part of the review of the OBC's disciplinary processes which was agreed at the 2018 AGM, the LEC reviewed the processes for incidents related to bridge events. An appeals process, specific to the OBC and the programme of bridge it runs, was written. The appeals process did not signify a significant change in the process that had been used previously but merely codified it to be more readily understandable and usable. All members were sent a copy of the appeals process by e-mail.
- A decision to extend the table token system to randomise seating to evening pairs sessions from 1st May 2018; previously it had only applied to morning sessions. This change has worked well.
- A review of the OBC's approach to psychic bidding which concluded that the policy should remain unchanged. All members were reminded by e-mail of the club's policy on psychic bidding. For information, there were five psyches recorded during the 2018/2019 year which is similar to previous years.
- Implementation of the rule changes introduced in the 2018 White Book, particularly on the level of standard penalties which changed from 10% to 25% of a top at pairs. The LEC also amended the OBC standard list of infractions for which penalties are imposed (slightly reducing the number of infractions that automatically attract a procedural penalty)
- Organised an EBU-led TD training course to be held over four Sundays in May/ June/ September/October 2019. Agreed to fund four new directors through the course to supplement the panel of OBC directors to support the club's growing programme.
- Encouraged all directors to watch director training videos available on the EBU website.
- Prepared for return to 147 Banbury Road. Following the return, it became apparent that it was proving hard to get morning sessions started on time. The LEC reminded all members, through the newsletter, about the rule of being seated 10 minutes before the session start and advised that the rule was to be enforced more rigorously. The problems with starting on time seem to have eased.
- Shortly after the year end, a joint training session for directors and scorers was held on Saturday 6th April. The session covered the use of the new premises and, in particular, the AV system, and introduced movements for larger numbers and a new set of movement documentation.

Martin Illingworth

Chief Tournament Director

4th June 2019

Annual Report of The Membership & Communication Committee
AGM: 10 July 2019

The Trustees have decided to offer free membership of the club to everyone taking lessons with the club on the Bridge4All course.
So far, 80 students have accepted this offer.
We also welcomed 41 members to the club this year which is very similar to last year.
We currently have 477 members – 380 in 2018.

The website has been significantly improved and updated with a new look and simpler navigation.

A toe has been dipped into the social media pond. A link to the Twitter feed is on the website.

The committee is planning to show club and general bridge information on the screen in the social area before sessions. We would welcome help from members particularly those who have relevant experience.

OBC CIO Operations Committee summary for April 2018 to March 2019

The Operations Committee met 4 times during the 2018/2019 year. At the meeting in October 2018, Martin Illingworth resigned, Hazel Hobbs took over the chair and Peter Elvins joined the committee. Sadly committee member, Stuart Scott, died early in the new year.

The committee's activities were limited during OBC's temporary residence at the Oxford City Football Club. Since returning to the redeveloped 147 Banbury Road premises, the committee has completely reviewed the club's health and safety policies, completed a health and safety risk assessment and fire risk assessment.

The cleaning arrangements have been reviewed and adjusted to suit the needs of enlarged premises. Similarly the heating and ventilation set up has been adapted and adjusted in order to achieve optimal comfort levels (particularly in the main playing room).

After some initial teething problems with the fire alarm system, regular fire alarm testing and fire drills have been instituted.

Peter Elvins
11 June 2019

Premises Committee Annual Report

A year ago we were some three months into the building project which was to continue through to December. This was a two month addition to the original plan mainly due to problems of access. The University had originally promised the year before to grant a number of access times so that large loads could be delivered and removed from the back of the premises. The subsequent failure to honour this agreement caused a lot of anxiety, considerably increased costs, and resulted in a good 2 months extra work for the builders. everything had to be barrowed in and out through the narrow front door and corridor, the last thing you want for a very major extension to the rear of your property.

These increase costs meant we had to compromise on the number of items such as air-conditioning, noise dampening and other items we would've liked to have perfected. However the main challenge, for our project management team, was to complete the project and reduce our expenditure to compensate for the aforementioned increased costs. This created huge challenges for them but Diana, Matthew and Chris put many extra hours to enable the move back with Bridge resuming at OBC on 10th December. A phenomenal fundraising effort spearheaded by our chairman allowed us to complete the project and to deliver the excellent premises we have now.

There continue to be teething troubles and various comments from members about things that could be improved as a result of which we've added shutters to the front room, experimented with the scorers position to maximise the playing area and we obtained quotes for blinds for the patio doors at the rear and those into the middle room to reduce the impact of sunshine. 2 quotes received but there has been a suggestion that curtains may be better now so that matter is ongoing.

The A V system still needs improvement and many of these items are covered by the 12 month retention period when the final 2 1/2% of the builders bill will be due to be paid this December, assuming everything has been put right.

Despite these various challenges we have achieved the main aim of greatly improving the premises with the big playing area, as well as 2 smaller rooms allowing league matches to be played and education and practice all contemporaneously.

Social Committee Annual Report 2018/19

Due to our relocation to Oxford City Football club in 2018 we were relatively quiet in organising social events.

We supported the Children in Need event in November and donated £1.037 which was gratefully received.

During October a bridge drive was run at Cumnor village hall. Approximately £1,000 was raised towards our refurbishment.

During week commencing 12th December 2018 when the club was ready for use we arranged two opening celebrations.

Sue Smith

Social Secretary