

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Annual General Meeting, 19th July 2023 at 6.00 pm
At 147, Banbury Road

Minutes

Attendees: Julie Anderson (JA)Chair, Ruth Kim(RK) Minutes, Ursula Bowler (UB), Richard Sills (RS), Peter Schroeder(PS), Liza Furnival(LF), Paul Watson(PW), Sandra Devaney(SD), Juliette Riehl(JR), Chris Bone(CB) and thirty-two members of the club.

1. Welcome to the OBC CIO AGM

The chair welcomed and thanked the thirty-two members of the club who joined the face-to-face meeting.

2. Apologies

Twenty-one apologies had been received.

3. Minutes of the last AGM 20th July 2022

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as accurate, these will be sent to the Chair for signing. The matters arising had all been met. Table money has been increased to £4 and the club finances are satisfactory.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair highlighted aspects of her written report which had been circulated to the membership. There had been a good return to face to face bridge though online games remain popular and both these options will remain, including hybrid sessions, in order to maximise opportunities to play. She thanked the many people who have helped her in her role and have ensured that the hive of activity that is the club has continued to run smoothly. The Bridge Committee had been busy arranging sessions, competitions, scorers and directors and special thanks went to Cliff Pavelin who is stepping down after years on the dealing team and to Ron Gould for stepping up as replacement. The club finances have been ably managed by our new treasurer, PS, and the club faces the financial future with confidence. Both the Premises and the Social committees had been busy and special thanks went to Sandra Devaney who is stepping down as Social Secretary after organising many successful get togethers and to John Deech for his generous sponsorship of a return to face to face bridge. The club membership numbers remain steady and the Membership and Communications team had also been busy. Special thanks were given to RS for his many years of service to the club as he steps down. Thankfully, there were no reports made to the Conduct Committee and JA reminded the meeting of the need for best behaviour at the table. The Education team, now managed by UB, had also been through a challenging time and thanks went to all our teachers for their hard work. More help would be welcome in this area, including new teachers and assistance with marketing. Charlie Bucknell continues to give lessons, though not in direct competition with the OBC school.

She mentioned the current vacancies in the areas of Comms, Social and Education and reminded members that the club relied on the support of volunteers and encouraged everyone to contribute their expertise to the running of the club.

A question was raised from the floor as to whether there was anything more that the club could do to encourage further numbers on the education courses. JA replied that there were several factors involved in

the drop off in numbers, including the departure of Shirley Rawlings and the fact that it is now a more competitive market. However, the costs had reduced and education is making a positive contribution to club finances.

5. Annual Report to the Charity Commission and Accounts for year ended 31st March 2023

The report and accounts had been circulated to the membership and the full reports can be reviewed on the OBC website.

PS thanked Steven Bliss, the outgoing Treasurer, for his advice and thorough handover and then presented a high level summary of the financial position. The OBC finances are satisfactory and are summarised here.

		2022-23	2021-22
Income	Bridge	£55,483	£41,516
	Education	£25,255	£33,015
Expenditure	Bridge	-£8,593	-£7,868
	Education	-£14,416	-£22,012
	Other	-£18,781	-£14,836
	Mortgage Interest	-£20,053	-£14,831
Net Surplus		£18,895	£14,984

The overall net surplus was about £4,000 up on the previous year. This is due to bridge numbers being up, especially F2F, and increased table money to £4 from Nov22, while costs only marginally increased (mainly EBU currently 45ppp)

With education, although numbers are down, costs are well controlled, resulting in a similar overall contribution to funds

Other costs are up, mainly due to maintenance issues, some cleaning and tea/coffee etc (F2F). Gas was budgeted to increase this winter, but CB just managed to secure a cost reduction of £1k.

The mortgage now has a remaining capital of £317,000, after the initial £405,000 taken out in April 2018 so considerable capital has been repaid. Interest payments are currently £2,798 pcm and within the 2023-24 Budget of £2,883 pcm. Overall, the 2023-24 Budget predicts a £3,000 surplus and the April-June 2023 surplus already exceeds this budget by about £2,500. Even if interest rates do rise again, we have £30,000 savings in our accounts as a buffer, so the mortgage is in hand and does not pose a big risk.

The only other possible concern is that the communal fund for the building is depleted at the moment, but no large repairs are envisaged at present and the club's share would be 1/3.

The meeting unanimously agreed to approve and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts.

6. Report of Independent Examiner

Peter Stevenson confirmed that he had audited and approved the accounts and was very happy with how they had been presented. Peter also thanked PS for taking over so ably as Treasurer. JA thanked Peter for all his work over the years.

7. Election of Trustees and Officers

JA announced that all of the ex officio Trustees had offered to continue in post, apart from RS (OBC Communications Officer) who is stepping down after many years' service. The membership voted and the appointment of the nominated Trustees was approved unanimously. The position of Communications Officer remains vacant.

Joe Brash and Juliette Riehl continue as directly elected Trustees and the appointment of John Briggs as additional directly elected Trustee was approved unanimously. There is a vacancy for one further directly elected Trustee, Sandra Devaney having stepped down.

The following were nominated for officers of the club: Martin Illingworth (Chief Tournament Director) and Matthew Wilkinson (Membership secretary). The membership voted and the appointment of the nominated officers was approved unanimously. The position of Social Secretary remains vacant.

JA confirmed that any volunteers for the vacancies can be co-opted to the Board without the need for a further general meeting.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2023-2024

Peter Stevenson has kindly agreed to be the Independent Examiner for 2023-2024. The membership unanimously approved this appointment.

9. Nomination to the Oxfordshire Bridge Association Selection Committee

Denis Talbot had kindly volunteered to take on the role as representative of OBC on this committee which deals with selection of County players and teams. The meeting unanimously approved his appointment.

10. Competition winners and award of cups

JA announced the winners of the competitions for the year and the cups were awarded followed by a group photo.

Beck Salver	Championship Pairs	Juanita Ochoa & Peter Randall
Rose Bowl	Championship Teams	Liza Furnival, Peter Litchfield, Peter Randall & Lorna Swadling
Winnie Ling	Mixed Pairs	Jackie Fairclough & Graham Orsmond
Morrie Marsh	Novice Pairs	Alex Au-Yeung & Kwun Lun Kwan
Meltzer Trophy	Rubber Bridge Knock-out	Charlie Bucknell & Ewa Wieczorek
Meltzer Plate(no trophy)	Rubber Bridge Knockout	Ron Gould & Peter Schroeder
John Simpson	Men's Pairs	John Blakesley & Malcom Orr-Ewing
Doreen Simpson	Ladies Pairs	Pat Lewis & Juliette Riehl
Eve Stockwell Bowl	Swiss Teams	Jaap Hoek, Cliff Pavelin, Moira Pavelin & Sue Smith
Thompson Trophy	Individual	Liza Furnival

Roger Hughes Trophy 2022-2023: For the most improved player – Dominique Kleyn, whose NGS increased by 6% in the year ending in March 2023. With an honourable mention to Sally Ruse whose NGS increased by nearly 5% over the same period.

Ladder Winners 2022 – 2023:

JA announced the winners of the ladders for the year.

Monday morning	Ron Gould
Tuesday morning (a pairs ladder)	Diana Cannon & Richard Sills
Wednesday afternoon Gentle Duplicate	Ann Lee
Wednesday evening pairs - Lew Braham Trophy	Martin Illingworth
Wednesday evening teams	Peter Randall & Lorna Swadling
Thursday evening Gentle Duplicate	Sheila Parry
Friday morning	Liza Furnival
Friday evening teams	Kathy Talbot

John Deech Challenge Pairs 2022-2023

Ladder winner – the John Deech Challenge Trophy and cash prize £125	Martin Illingworth
Runner up – cash prize £75	Amr El-Kashef
Highest placed player with an NGS of under 9 – cash prize £100	Juliette Riehl

11. AOB

Christine Bishop mentioned that there was going to be an open session on the coming Sunday to try and attract more teachers to the club as more volunteers are still needed. It would be an opportunity to see the resources available and to discuss what the commitment involved.

There were no other items for discussion.

The meeting closed at 18:45.