OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Oxford Bridge Club CIO
Registered Charity 1155820

Annual General Meeting, 30th July 2025 at 6.00 pm
At 147, Banbury Road

Minutes

Attendees: Julie Anderson (JA)Chair, Ruth Kim(RK) Minutes, Ursula Bowler (UB),Peter Schroeder(PS), Liza Furnival(LF),Juliette Riehl(JR), Brian Mills(BM)Diana Cannon(DC) and forty members of the club.

1. **Welcome to the OBC CIO AGM**

The Chair welcomed and thanked the forty members of the club who were in attendance.

2. Apologies

11 apologies had been received including 3 trustees (John Briggs, Joe Brash, Paul Watson).

3. Minutes of the last AGM 10th July 2024

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.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair highlighted aspects of her written report which had been circulated to the membership. The club has had another successful year. Face to face bridge had increased to around 50%, though playing on Real Bridge remains popular so both these options will remain, including hybrid sessions, in order to maximise opportunities to play. OBC is the 8th ranked club in the country for number of player sessions. Numbers are not yet back to pre-COVID levels but are slowly increasing (16795 in 2019-2020, 13924 in 2024-25 up from 13575 the year before).

Six teams took part in the evening Wessex League, with Team A winning Division 1 so overall champions and Team D winning Division 3. Seven teams also played in the Daytime Wessex League with an Oxford team winning each of the 3 Divisions. The education team have had a very successful year and special thanks went to Ursula Bowler, Education Secretary and chair of the Education Committee, as well as to Christine and Ian Bishop who head the teaching team for all their hard work. The Andrew Robson teaching day continues to be popular. The club membership numbers remain steady at 474 members, including 80 students on the Bridge for All courses. The Bridge Committee had been busy arranging sessions, competitions, scorers and directors. Handicap pairs have been introduced for social events to encourage

less expert players to participate and Pro-Am events have been run successfully helping more players to meet each other. These will now be scheduled into the year's timetable. Prizes in many competitions are now awarded to those who win in a less expert category now known as "Rising Stars". The Chair thanked all the directors, hosts, dealers and the many volunteers behind the scenes who enable the club to run. Special thanks went to John Deech for his continued generous sponsorship a monthly Wednesday evening competitions with refreshments and prizes and to Martin Illingworth and Liza Furnival for the incredible amount of work they put in.

Members were reminded that the club relied on the support of volunteers and everyone is encouraged to contribute their expertise to the running of the club. In particular the vacancies for Social Secretary and House Officer were mentioned and that the Premises, Social and Membership committees all needed more volunteers.

The Trustees oversee the running of the club with 4/5 meetings a year. In the past year, John Briggs kindly agreed to be co-opted to serve as Premises Officer and Diana Cannon as a Directly elected Trustee. She thanked all Trustees for their support and especially Peter Schroeder, Treasurer, for his work on the finances.

Congratulations were also give to members who have won competitions during the year as well as those who continue to improve or simply enjoy their game.

5. Annual Report to the Charity Commission and Accounts for year ended 31st March 2025

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

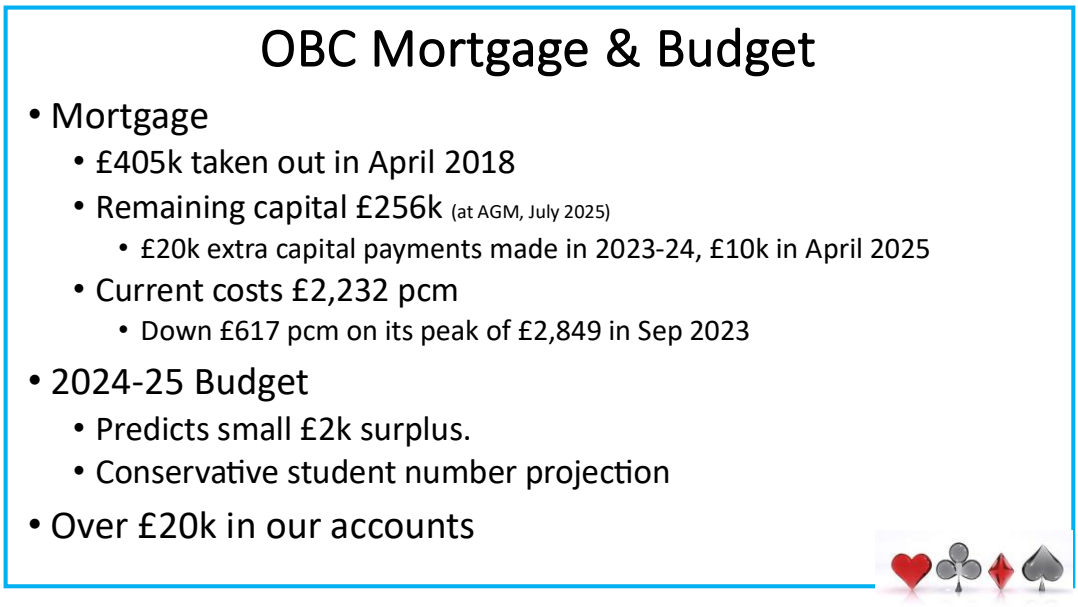
PS presented a high- level summary of the financial position. Overall the club had another very good year financially and the position is summarised here.

OBC Finances 202425

		2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
Income	Bridge	£47,535	£47,228	£45,890
	Education	£38,591	£36,241	£23,989
	Other	£18,412	£17,476	£13,822
Expenditure	Bridge	-£11,949	-£12,821	-£11,556
	Education	-£17,563	-£16,763	-£14,416
	Other (inc. mortgage)	-£48,571	-£47,361	-£38,834
Net Surplus		**£26,455**	**£24,000**	**£18,895**

The overall net surplus was about £26,000, up on the previous year. This is due to bridge numbers being up, especially F2F, and a very good year for Education, with higher student numbers and the relaxed sessions and the Andrew Robson day making a good contribution.

Expenses were down slightly from last year for the bridge and remained almost level for education. Other costs were up, including insurance, the extended bar licence, outsourced catering for A Robson and the new White Board(though this was generously subsidised by the OBA) The increases were compensated for by the decrease in mortgage rates. The mortgage position is summarised here



The mortgage now has a remaining capital of £256,000 so considerable capital has been repaid. Overall, the 2024-25 Budget predicts a small £2,000 surplus. Even if interest rates do rise again, we have £20,000 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, of which the club is the freeholder, needs to increase from the current £3,000, 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 and a vote of thanks was proposed to Peter for all his hard work.

6. Report of Independent Examiner

Peter Stevenson was unable to be present but had confirmed that he had audited and approved the accounts and found them to be in good order. 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 RK (OBC Secretary) and Paul Watson (Conduct Officer). Dhanesh Goberdhan had been nominated as the new club Secretary and Ruth Kim as the new Conduct Officer. The position of Social Secretary remains vacant.

There was a vacancy for one further directly elected Trustee, and Graham Orsmond had been nominated.

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 ex officio Trustees, the directly elected Trustee and the nominated officers was approved unanimously.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2025-2026

Peter Stevenson has kindly agreed to continue as Independent Examiner for 2025-2026. The membership unanimously approved this appointment. Steven Bliss has agreed to take over the following year.

9. Competition winners and award of cups

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

Beck Salver Championship Pairs	Amr El-Kashef & Martin Illingworth
Beck Salver Championship Pairs: Rising Stars	Christine Bishop & Ian Bishop
Rose Bowl Championship Teams	Not played
Eve Stockwell Bowl Swiss Teams	Jackie Fairclough, Graham Orsmond, Denis Talbot & Kathy Talbot
Winnie Ling Mixed Pairs	Jackie Fairclough & Graham Orsmond
Winnie Ling Mixed Pairs: Rising Stars	Erika Syba & Thomas Gregory-Smith
Thomson Trophy Individual	Martin Illingworth
Morrie Marsh Novice Pairs	Paul Baccas & Veena Dalsania-Patel
Meltzer Trophy Rubber Bridge Knock-out	Amr El-Kashef & Martin Illingworth
Meltzer Plate Rubber Bridge Knock-out	Ron Gould & Peter Schroeder
John Simpson Trophy Men's Pairs	Trevor Dawn & Peter Sherry
Doreen Simpson Trophy Ladies' Pairs	Linda Allen & Viccy Fleming
John Deech Challenge Trophy	Martin Illingworth
John Deech Runner-up (cash prize)	Amr El-Kashef
John Deech Top player with NGS of under 10 (cash prize)	Juliette Riehl

Roger Hughes Trophy Most Improved Player	Margaret Keane (whose NGS ranking increased by 1.91 % in the year ending March 2025) with an honourable mention to Mark Ferris (whose NGS ranking increased by 1.58% over the same period)

Ladder winners 2024-2025

Monday Morning	Martin Illingworth
Tuesday Morning a pairs ladder	Gillian Chapman & Ruth Stockford
Wednesday Gentle Duplicate	Paul Dhesi
Wednesday Evening Pairs **Lew Braham Trophy**	Denis Talbot
Wednesday Evening Teams	Graham Orsmond
Thursday 9-High Pairs	Joint winners: Nieell Grew & Stevie Rudd
Friday Morning **Sheila Greenwood Trophy**	Joint winners: Denis Talbot & Kathy Talbot
Friday Evening Teams	Joint winners: Liza Furnival, Lorna Swadling & Peter Randall

10. AOB

None

Sandra Davaney spoke to thank JA for all her work as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 18:35.