

Bridge Committee Report 2016–2017

The BC held four meetings during the year, including one meeting dedicated to scoring in March 2017. The work of the committee has included organising the calendar of special events, revising the Competition bylaws, the Session bylaws and the OBC Playing Guidelines, supervising hosting, and organising scoring and duplimating.

Bridge sessions:

We continue to run five regular sessions of duplicate bridge per week (three in the daytime and two in the evenings) plus friendly rubber bridge one afternoon a week. Three of these sessions are hosted. A full calendar of special events and simultaneous pairs events was also run during the year. Together with Summertown Bridge Club, we ran a Blue-pointed Swiss Pairs event in July 2016 which raised approximately £450 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Scoring:

All club sessions have now switched to scoring with EBUScore with the exception of Tuesday mornings. The club has 20 trained scorers (though some of these need more practice before they become proficient) plus four more in training for Gentle Duplicate. Two club members attended an EBU course for scorers in Aylesbury and fed back useful information which was presented to scorers in two briefing sessions in March. A suite of OBC preferred movements within EBUScore has been written and documented for most club sessions, with the exception of Wednesday and Friday evenings. Scoring documentation for pairs sessions has been written and is now available to scorers. New arrangements for supporting EBUScore on both of the club's computers have been agreed and are due to be implemented soon.

Duplimating:

Following the institution of two new Gentle Duplicate sessions per week, demand for duplimated boards increased during the year. An updated and streamlined process for duplimating was implemented at the beginning of 2017. The duplimator, laptop and Brother printer have been moved permanently to the Mary Good room so that they can be accessed easily and at short notice. The Treasurer has approved the purchase of a second-hand duplimator as a backup machine as the club can no longer afford to be without one.

Liza Furnival
April 2017

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Oxford Bridge Club CIO
Registered Charity 1155820

Conduct Committee Annual Report 2017

1. Scope

This report is based on review and discussion at a meeting of the Conduct Committee held at the Oxford Bridge Club on April 19th 2017.

2. Review of Complaints

Between April 2016 and March 2017 the Conduct Committee were referred four complaints for investigation. These related to evening sessions. Three complaints were upheld and resolved according to the Terms of Reference of the Conduct Committee. One complaint is being investigated at the time of this report. 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. Membership of the Conduct Committee

The selection and term of membership of the committee is defined in the ToR. There had been lack of transparency in the approval process for 2016/7. Nominations for membership are welcome for 2017/8. 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. Future meetings

The Conduct Committee will meet face to face annually, usually in March. Extra-ordinary meetings will be arranged on an *ad hoc* basis as required.

Denis Talbot
Chairman, Oxford Bridge Club CIO Conduct Committee

OBC Education Committee Report April 2017

This is the first full year of operation for Oxford Bridge School (OBS). Ultimately the success of the education programme depends on the quality of the teachers delivering the courses. OBS is fortunate to have a team of excellent teachers whose hard work and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. These frontline ambassadors for the club are supported by a team of volunteers from the OBC membership who provide support for learners in lessons and training sessions, administer bookings and payments, keep the website pages both current and enticing, and who organise Directors, Scorers and Hosts for the four, weekly duplicate sessions for which the education team is responsible.

Beginners

The first Bridge for All classes offered by the club for Beginners started in October 2017. Recruitment was through free Taster Sessions, advertising on the club's website and by distributing information postcards in the local area and beyond. Sixty six people enrolled for the three-term, thirty week course. Enrolments for term 3 are still taking place so the number completing the course is not currently available, but retention has been encouraging. The experimental Mini-Bridge practice sessions in term 1 of the course were successful in enabling students to play Duplicate Bridge at the club at an early stage. A year 2 Bridge for All course is being planned and teachers have been recruited for this.

Saturday Seminars

A Saturday Seminar series has been established offering seminars on a variety of topics on a monthly basis where possible. Over a full year, the programme is designed to offer sessions suitable for players of differing ability and experience. These have proved to be very popular and are almost always fully booked.

Tutorials

There is a monthly tutorial on Monday afternoons and occasionally, one-off tutorial sessions are offered as a follow-up to a particular seminar or course at the request of those who have attended.

Courses

A variety of longer courses have been given, mostly lasting 10 weeks but a few shorter ones. These are mostly aimed at players of an Intermediate standard but a Bidding review course has been given for people returning to Bridge.

Wessex League Training

The Education team organised a series of four training sessions during the summer for members who play in the club's Wessex League Teams.

Playing sessions for beginners and less experienced players

The club recognises the importance of providing playing opportunities for players new to the game. There are two Learn and Play sessions each week. These were run by Oxford Bridge Learning until April 2016 when the club took them over. A team of Directors, Scorers and Hosts has been established. It is encouraging that some of the beginners are already attending these sessions. Two new Gentle Duplicate sessions have been introduced into the club's weekly programme during the year, one in the day and one in the evening. These sessions provide a bridge for new players between lessons and the more competitive club sessions.

All four sessions have been consistently attended, with usually between 3 and 7 tables in play.

Vicky Fleming (Education Manager)

Colin Wels (Education Secretary)

Report of the Membership and Communication Committee 2016-17

	2017	2016			
Number of members	321	333			
New members	22	23	47	19	34

We will welcome around 60 new members this month following the Trustees' decision to grant free membership for one year to all learners entering their third term.

A monthly newsletter is produced by Richard Sills and emailed to all members of the club. A paper copy is attached to the notice board for the benefit of those members who do not have email. We do not have email addresses for just 14 members.

We remain without a website manager - volunteer needed. The Committee is particularly grateful to Liza Furnival for the assistance that she has given throughout the year.

During the year, the Yahoo Group for finding partners was wound up as new members were not joining the group and the database was not being updated. Advertisements are placed through Pianola, facilitated by the partnership secretary Jennifer Marsden.

OBC CIO Operations Committee summary for April 2016 to March 2017

The Operations Committee met four times during the 2016/2017 year. During the year, the committee updated the CIO's health and safety policy, completed a health and safety risk assessment and updated the CIO's emergency evacuation plan. It also arranged the annual inspection of the fire extinguishers and the biannual inspection of the fire and smoke alarm systems by competent bodies. Appropriate checks, nominally weekly, of the fire extinguishers, fire and smoke alarms were also made. All portable electrical items were subject to a PAT during the year. Four evacuation exercises were run during June 2016.

The Committee has ensured that the CIO's day-to-day bridge activities are facilitated by ensuring that the premises are adequately cleaned, that the furniture and fixtures and fittings are in good order and repaired where necessary, and that refuse is disposed of in a sustainable manner. Provision of regular additional cleaning was arranged to ensure the premises remain an attractive location in which to play bridge.

During the year, there have been a number of instances where the premises have been left insecure over night, which remains a concern.

Martin Illingworth
26th April 2017

Subject: Property report

It seems sensible to review progress or lack of it during the last 12 months.

We achieved agreement to a loan of £395K from the charity bank earlier last year conditional on a maximum project cost of £460 K. At the same time we finally got agreement from the University for sufficient rear access for large materials.

The final major delay was getting agreement from the two flat owners above to the car park being closed while the project was built. We would, in compensation, pay for a parking permit and make a further payment in compensation for the inconvenience. Agreement here came through in July.

We then contacted the architect to say we were ready to proceed and she promised to see the builder after her return from holiday early August with the aim of seeing us later that month to move things forward. We are advising we need to get the project cost down to around 415 K.

Sadly that promise was not fulfilled, because of the lack of a revised quotation from the builder and we were not able to achieve a meeting until Jan. 17!

The main challenge was that the last quote in 2014 was for £490 K including VAT and obviously we needed to achieve some reduction to fulfil affordability and bank criteria.

While the quote gave some details of costs of the periphery items around the edges the main project cost of the bulk of the work was quoted at £359K plus VAT, but with no detail making it virtually impossible for us to have a proper discussion about the best way to reduce costs.

In anticipation that we would need help in achieving a reduction Peter Elvins, a retired property professional, was consulted on ideas on how to modify the project.

The architect was not able to give us any more details of the quote surprisingly and suggested we contacted the builder, which I have done. He stated he didn't want to spend more time on the project given the disparity in what we can afford and what sums he needs. It also did not suit him to start in July which is the earliest we can realistically move to temporary premises.

In practice we have had to modify the project and find another builder, which the architect has also suggested we do.

We invite anyone with knowledge/experience of using to suggest alternative builders.

With regard to temporary premises the original favourite option of Oxford city football club, became difficult because of the death of Colin Taylor with whom the original verbal agreement/discussion was held. We have not been successful in arranging a meeting with any successor— giving no chance of arranging temporary premises by April this year. An alternative has been identified in Little Clarendon Street, premises being vacated by a college, and available from late July this year for 12 months.

To modify/improve the project we have streamlined into sub committees and have had meetings with structural engineers and the architect with a view to reducing the massive steels suggested in the extension and also improving the layout. We hope to have a more efficient and cost effective project ready for tender soon so we can use the Little Clarendon alternative premises option, available for 12 months from mid-July.

Howard Arnes
Premises officer
24/04/17

Oxford Bridge Club

Social Committee Report 2016/17

The Committee has had a very successful year.

We held our second Café Bridge event this year and were able to donate £900 to the Samaritans.

It was decided not to hold a Summer party following so closely after the Café event.

Our Children in Need event in November was a very busy and successful week raising over £1200 pounds for the charity by selling home-made cakes and biscuits made by Members and running a raffle the prizes again being donated by Members. Everyone was very generous with their time and donations which it made an enjoyable and social week.

Our celebrations for Christmas took the form of bridge in the afternoon with tea and cake and between this session and the evening bridge we had wine and nibbles for Members. An excellent unaccompanied Male Voice Choir entertained us for half an hour with seasonal music.

The committee has maintained a steady presence in the Club during the year. We take care of the purchasing of provisions for daytime drinks and soft and alcoholic beverages in the Club - Lorraine Jones running a very efficient bar. Catering in the Club works on an ad hoc basis. Our Almoner continues to react to information received concerning the needs of all our Members.

My thanks go to all the committee members for all their continuing support. I shall not be standing for the Chair of this committee next year.

Pat Lewis

25.04.17