

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Oxford Bridge Club CIO
Registered Charity 1155820

Minutes of Oxford Bridge Club CIO AGM held on Wednesday 29th June 2016

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairman, Richard Sills, opened the meeting at 6.00 pm with a welcome to all the members present.
- 2. Election of a Chair for the Meeting:** Richard Sills was elected chair of the meeting.
- 3. Apologies:** The Secretary had received apologies from 23 members.
- 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2015**

The Minutes had been circulated with the notice and papers for the meeting. The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There was one matter arising concerning the circulation of Trustee meeting minutes to all members. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Trustees did not consider it appropriate to make such minutes available to all members.

Chairman's Address

At this point of the meeting the Chairman addressed the members on a number of matters particularly relevant to the past year. He mentioned those members who had died or moved away and to members who were standing down from certain positions. Special mention and thanks was made of the work done by John Fleming and Chris Kerr. Appreciation was also expressed towards Melinda Jordan and John Briggs for their work over the last seven years for running OBL which closed in March. The Chairman stated that the creation of OBS has ensured that training and recruitment has been carried on smoothly and professionally since March.

The Chairman then referred to the Club's drive to enforce Best Behaviour at Bridge and said it was the responsibility of every member to maintain high standards of Best Behaviour. Directors have been instructed to take a strong line on misconduct. Reference was made to a 10% turnover in membership and therefore the necessity to recruit at least 30-35 new members every year. The Chairman emphasised it was

paramount to have a fully developed training programme and make new members welcome in order to aid such recruitment.

An update on the refurbishment of the premises situation was also mentioned with work anticipated to start on the building by next Easter.

The Chairman concluded his general remarks by stating that by 2017 he was planning to step down and that a successor needed to be found.

Note: The full text of the Chairman's address was emailed to members subsequently.

5. Annual Report and Accounts

The Trustees had met on 13th June 2016 to agree the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016. Some small changes had been made and the revised version published on the website.

The Treasurer, Chris Kerr, presented the accounts. He said the accounts showed a Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st March 2016. He mentioned that the important figure in this statement was the surplus of £36,762 which would be added to the total funds carried forward to the reserves for refurbishment. It was mentioned that the accounts do not reflect Gift Aid and that the total current assets stand at £85,018. Donations to Children in Need totalled £1,100 and Cafe Bridge raised £1,225 in 2015. The Treasurer said there had been 12,046 player sessions in this period although there was a slight reduction in player numbers and the profit rate on bar sales was down. Some players on a few occasions had requested that cheques be cashed and the Treasurer asked members to refrain from this practise. He concluded by thanking John Briggs for being the Independent Examiner and Carol Benzie in her role as Cashier. There were no questions on the Annual Report and Accounts.

The Chairman mentioned the issue of cashless payments as some members had expressed an interest in this method of paying for sessions. It was stated that there were advantages in not trading in cash although some administrative technicalities were recognised. Chris Kerr said a method could be adopted whereby members bought a series of tokens to pay for sessions. It was noted the membership present were generally in favour of such cashless payments.

The question of member loans to help with the cost of refurbishment was also mentioned but Chris Kerr said that such contributions raised complications and would hopefully be unnecessary as the Bank had agreed to loan £395,000 over 25 years for the project.

6. Report of Independent Examiner

Chris Kerr read out the Independent Examiner's statement at the end of the Independent Examiner's report which confirmed there was no problem with the accounts. There were no further questions and Chris Kerr, after the Annual Report and Accounts were proposed and seconded, said they would now be forwarded to the Charity Commission.

7. Proposed changes to the Articles of Association

The Secretary, John Fleming, presented and explained a number of changes to the Articles of Association. The changes concerned the removal of Daytime Membership, the change of "Education Officer" to "Education Secretary" and those concerning "Conduct". The proposed wording of 13.4 under "Conduct" was queried and after discussion it was decided that the wording should be amended as follows:-

"If a player has received penalty scores in more than one session, the Trustees may at their sole discretion place limitations to dictate a specific session or sessions that the player may not attend for a period of up to one year".

John Fleming also suggested an amendment to the function of the "Education Secretary" so that it would read:-

"Chairs the Education Committee. Responsible to the Trustees for the provision of Bridge Education"

and deleting "for club members. Liaison with bridge education providers and publicity for bridge lessons".

These amendments were proposed by John Fleming and seconded by Sue Burge.

8. Revised Articles of Association to be approved by the Meeting

A resolution to approve the revised Articles of Association was then put to the meeting proposed by Claire MacDonagh and seconded by Matthew Wilkinson.

9. Election of Officers according to the Articles of Association

The nominations for Officers to become ex-officio Trustees was set out in the documentation attached with the agenda. There were 10 such Officers and a further 2 Officers (House Officer and Captain) plus the President who do not become Trustees. These nominations were elected.

Officers who become ex-Officio Trustees

Chairman	Richard Sills
Secretary	John Fleming
Treasurer	Chris Kerr
Membership Secretary	Matthew Wilkinson
Chief Tournament Director	Tom Nicholls
Tournament Secretary	Claire MacDonagh
Social Secretary	Pat Lewis
Premises Officer	Howard Arnes
Education Secretary	Colin Wels
Conduct Officer	Denis Talbot

10. Election of Trustees according to the Constitution

There were five nominations for the positions of directly elected Trustees i.e. Martin Illingworth (standing for re-election), Kathy Talbot (also standing as Captain), Sue Burge, John Lewis-Crosby and Lis Long. They were elected by the meeting. Diane Coe, Liza Furnival, Ruth Kim and Marion Sheppard continue to serve as directly elected Trustees.

There were eight nominations for OBC Representatives to the OBA with no others being forthcoming. Matthew Covill was nominated for the position of County Selector. These nominations were also elected by the meeting.

The Chairman said there was a vacancy for the position of Web Officer and made a request for any member to let a Trustee know if they knew of someone who could fulfil that role.

11. Competition Winners and Award of Cups

The winners of the various competitions played throughout the past year was as follows:-

Beck Salver (Championship Pairs)	Steven Bliss and Stephanie Bliss
Winnie Ling (Mixed Pairs)	Peter Randall and Diana Thorne
Wednesday Teams Ladder	Liza Furnival and Peter Randall
Lew Braham Trophy (Wed eve pairs ladder)	Alexander Lishkov
Sheila Greenwood Trophy (Fri eve pairs ladder)	Peter Owen-Smith
Rose Bowl (Championship Teams)	Denis Talbot, Kathy Talbot, Rob Dixon, Michiel Cottaar

Eve Stockwell Bowl (Swiss Teams)	Michiel Cottaar, Rob Dixon, Hugo Huggett, Simon Harrison
Friday morning Ladder	Diane Coe
Monday morning Ladder	Alison Withers Green
Tuesday morning Ladder	Diana Pick and Ruth Jones
Doreen Simpson (Ladies' Pairs)	Carol Benzie and Lorraine Jones
John Simpson (Mens' Pairs)	John Cecil and Peter Stevenson
Morrie Marsh (Novice Pairs)	John Cooper and Tessa Goddard
Thompson Trophy (Individual)	Esme Alden
Meltzer (Rubber Bridge Knock-Out)	Final yet to be played
Roger Hughes Trophy (Most Improved)	Claire McGlashan

12. Any Other Business

Suggestions were made from Members regarding ways of generating additional funds for the Club including making donations and sponsorship.

The Chairman made reference to various competitions and to the match against the team from the Netherlands with an invitation having been extended to have a return match back in the Netherlands.

Finally, the Chairman invited Pat Lewis to inform the members about the success of Cafe Bridge for 2016. She stated that the initiative had raised £900 for Oxford Samaritans and presented a cheque to Tony Woolstone, Director of Oxford Samaritans for that amount. Tony Woolstone expressed his gratitude to the Club on behalf of the charity.

Signed Richard Sills, Chairman of the Meeting)

Date