

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Oxford Bridge Club CIO
Registered Charity 1155820

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting on 22nd November 2017

1. Welcome

The Secretary, John Fleming, opened the meeting at 6.45. He welcomed members, noting that there were over 30 members present making the meeting quorate.

He explained that the governance of Oxford Bridge Club was controlled by two formal documents, The Constitution and the Articles of Association, and that the meeting had been called to make minor adjustments to the Articles of Association. Discussion of these proposed changes would be followed by an News update from Pat Lewis, the Club Chairman.

2. Apologies for Absence.

The Secretary had received apologies from 11 members.

3. Changes to the Articles of Association.

The Secretary drew member's attention to the three proposed changes to the Articles of Association (see Annex), explaining each in turn.

Amendment A. This amendment is required because of the expansion of the club's education team which now included individuals from other clubs. In order to provide such individuals with access to the Club while protecting the Club's security, a new category of member called an 'Affiliate Member' is proposed in this amendment. An affiliate member agrees to follow the rules of the club but derives no other rights of membership.

Amendment B. This amendment concerns Officers of the Club whose roles are defined in the Articles of Association but are not listed as Trustees in the Constitution. These Officers are President, House Officer and Captain. The position of President was abolished at the last AGM held on 28th June 2017. It is now proposed to remove the other two roles from the Articles of Association, giving responsibility for appointment to the role to the relevant committee subject to approval by the Trustees. The position of Club Captain would then become an appointment of the Bridge Committee and the position of House Officer would become an appointment of the Operations Committee. The Secretary thanked Kathy Talbot, the Club Captain, and Hazel Hobbs, House Officer, for the sterling work they were doing in their respective roles.

Amendment C. This is a minor amendment concerning the financial management of the Club, moving approval of the budget to the first Trustee meeting after the AGM. This is necessitated by a change to the regular date of the AGM.

The three proposed amendments were seconded by Howard Arnes, were put to the vote and were carried unanimously.

The Secretary thanked members, handing the floor to the Club Chairman to provide a news update.

4. News Update

The Chairman, Pat Lewis, informed members of the success of the Club. It has 368 members, which is the largest number in its history, with 69 new members joining since January 2017. The Club was running 3 Bridge for All year 1 courses each week for a total of 61 learners and 3 follow-on Bridge for All year 2 courses for 70 improvers. The success of these courses was a tribute to the Education Manager, Viccy Fleming, and the Education Committee. Members were asked to be aware that these new players would soon be progressing to the regular playing sessions and that they should be encouraged and supported in a welcoming manner.

The Club owns its premises, with all the attendant responsibilities including building maintenance, security and health and safety. Playing sessions needed to be organised, sets of cards provided, results processed, refreshments provided, etc. In total 14 out of a possible 15 slots were used each week for bridge courses and playing sessions.

Members were reminded that the success of the club and its smooth running were a tribute to the hard work of the Trustees, the Club Officers, the Committee members and the members of the many subsidiary groups.

The Chairman regretted to inform members that since her term of office began, the Club's Tournament Director and Trustee Tom Nichol has had to resign due to ill-health. The club would miss his expertise and wished him a speedy recovery. She thanked Richard Sills for stepping into the role of acting Tournament Director.

A meeting had been held with the new general manager of the English Bridge Union, Gordon Rainsford, together with Bev Purvis who both wished to see how the club functioned particularly with respect to bringing on new players. They were impressed. As a result of the discussions the EBU will not charge pay2play for the Club's Learn and Play sessions.

5. Premises update

The Chairman updated members on the important topic of the extension to the premises. A new architect, Gray Baines and Shew, had been appointed who will take the project forward from a design and build perspective, also acting as project manager. The Trustees are confident that the project will be managed professionally, will meet all statutory requirements and will deliver the agreed outcome at the agreed price.

Project oversight will be provided on behalf of the Trustees by the Premises Committee with financial oversight by Chris Kerr and Health and Safety input from Martin Illingworth. The Chairman emphasised the considerable time input required, on member's behalf, by these individuals and others, requesting their full support from members.

Representatives from the architects have been invited to the Club's Christmas Party on the 13th December where the final design and 'mood boards' will be displayed. These will remain on display until after Christmas. Members will be able to vote on which 'mood board' conveys an appropriate ambience for the Club.

The Chairman noted that the project will take almost a year, starting on 3rd April 2018 and continuing until mid-December 2018, adding that it will be necessary to find alternative premises for the duration of the project. She recognised that this will be inconvenient and requested member's forbearance as the project will considerably benefit the club as a whole.

The Chairman thanked members for their attention, closing the meeting at 7.15.

Signed Pat Lewis, Chairman of the Meeting)

Date

Annex - Summary of changes to Articles of Association

A. Add an additional membership category for Affiliate member and clarify Associate member definition

Add to section 2.1 a new definition as follows:

Affiliate: A person who has undertaken to follow all the rules, guidelines and policies of the club may be granted affiliate membership for a 12 month period on the recommendation of a Trustee and registration with the Membership Secretary in order to carry out functions for the club. They shall not be eligible for election as a Trustee or an Officer nor shall they be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the OBC but may attend as observers.

Clarify that Associate member category are not entitled to vote by adding this sentence to the definition:

They shall not be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the OBC.

Modify section 2.2 to read:

2.2 Candidates for membership (other than Associate membership and Affiliate membership) shall apply to the Membership Secretary on the appropriate form.

Add reference to "affiliate" in paragraph 6.7:

6.7 There shall be no annual membership fee for Honorary Life Membership, Associate membership, or Affiliate membership.

B. Remove the positions of Captain and House Officer from the list of elected Officers

In section 8.1 Delete paragraphs related to House Officer and Captain

C. Reset the date for Budget preparation

Change paragraph 10.4 to read:

10.4 The Trustees shall arrange for a budget in respect of the new financial year to be prepared and approved at the first Trustee meeting after the AGM.