

**Minutes of the Management Committee meeting of the  
Oxfordshire Bridge Association which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2005**

**1. Present**

Sandy Constable (in the Chair)  
Alan Wilson (Treasurer)  
Mary-Ann Sheehy (Secretary)  
Brian Claridge Wessex League Secretary  
Sandra Claridge EBU Rep  
Brenda Harris EBU Rep and Publicity Secretary  
Frank Harris Oxford  
Esmé Alden Oxford  
Ina Merriman Witney  
Gordon Carroll Abingdon  
D.A. Walton Abingdon  
Geoff Nicholas Aylesbury  
Sandra Nicholson Summertown  
Krys Kazmierczak Summertown

**2. Apologies**

Keith Sadler, Stephen Brown, Nick Smith, Erica Sheppard, Peggy Manuell, Isobel Townley- Freeman, Jean Squires, Clive Keep, Bill McCarthy, Maxine Henry.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed. There were no matters arising other than those already on the agenda.

**4. Officers Reports**

a. EBU Rep

Sandra Claridge (together with John Williams) had attended the Shareholders meeting. Essentially those present had found the lack of information and planning about the proposed move of headquarters to Kettering unsatisfactory. They had asked the executive to return at next meeting with hard facts and figures. There is concern that the figures do not stack up and that the EBU is in danger losing its equity by selling the property in Aylesbury and sinking it into removal, redundancy etc. costs with no other cushioning against possible future needs. There had been discussions about the cancellation of County Secretaries meetings and a request was for these to be re introduced. Numbers of EBU members was down another 1000 and there was much discussion about how to encourage bridge players to become members. The possibility of a mandatory membership fee was being discussed again. There were other pilot schemes being set up for membership and associate membership drive.

b. Treasurer

A surplus of about £730 for the year seemed to be the financial position. Alan Wilson reported that he was retiring from acting as Treasurer at the AGM and asked if anyone knew of anyone who would be willing to replace him. He himself had heard of someone willing to do the accounts but not collect the table money on Tuesdays. This Alan was willing to continue to do.

c. Publicity Officer

Brenda Harris reported that advertising the Green Point event to be held in June had been a priority. The Advert in the English Bridge Magazine was fine, but wondered whether there should be another one in the next edition. General view of the meeting was that it was not worth it. Flyers were being given to lots of congresses and there was a proposal to send some to each club and ask them to advertise. Brenda was also with the EBU organising a Bridge in Oxford event which consisted of a tour round Oxford then lunch and bridge at Wadham College. In advertising this she would also advertise the Green Point event and use the Oxford event as a membership drive.

d. President's and Chester Cup Secretary

Geoff Nicholas reported that the President's Cup had been won by Rob Proctor, Mike Robinson, Dave Thomas and Richard Hayden. The Chester Cup final was taking place that night.

e. Wessex League Secretary

Brian Claridge reported as follows:

First division had been won by Aylesbury

Second Division had been won by Oxford B

Third Division had been won by Oxford C

Fourth Division had been won by Blewbury

Fifth Division had been won by Summertown B

Balliol had come second in Division C and Aylesbury Vale had won 2 matches. Relegations will be announced later.

f. Tournament Secretary

In his absence Bill McCarthy had sent in the following report: 11 entries had been accepted for the Beck Cup Final. Mixed pairs on 22<sup>nd</sup> May – entries slow. The County Pairs semi finals had been fine except in the second semi-final people two pairs had not turned up, one because they thought it was on a different day and one because they had a domestic problem. Harwell Cup invites would be extended in June. The Oxford Times Cup had been poorly attended. We were reminded that the nature of the competition for the Harwell Cup was under review and should be discussed at the AGM.

AOB Other matters on the agenda could not be discussed as Keith Sadler was key and

not present. There was discussion about whether the Sunday events might not be more popular if held on an evening. There was a suggestion that Lifestyle had changed so that Sundays are no longer popular days for competitions. Oxford BC was also perhaps a disincentive since many players from outside Oxford refused to go there on account of the parking. Perhaps a rotation of the County competitions in more accessible venues on a weekday would be more popular. More to be discussed at another meeting. It was also suggested that the Tuesday county night might rotate amongst clubs.

Date of Next meeting: 16 June 2005 after the AGM on that date.