

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

### 1. Present:

Keith Sadler Chairman  
Stephen Brown- Chief Tournament Director  
Mary-Ann Sheehy – Secretary  
Alan Wilson – Treasurer  
Jean Squires Membership Secretary  
Brenda Harris - Publicity Officer

Geoff Nicholas Aylesbury  
Esme Alden Oxford  
Maxine Henry Oxford  
Peggy Manuell Oxford  
Frank Harris Oxford  
Peter Stevenson Oxford  
Peter Baxter Wallingford/EBU Delegate  
Gordon Carroll Abingdon  
Alan Grunwald Wantage  
Clive Keep Abingdon

### 2. Apologies for absence

John Gunn  
Norman Gascoyne  
Isobel Townley-Freeman  
Nick Smith  
Sandra Nicolson  
Ina Merriman  
Erika Sheppard  
Brian Claridge  
Sandra Claridge  
Bill McCarthy  
Royd Laidlow  
Dave Walton

### 3. **Minutes of meeting on 8 September 2004 were approved**

### 4. **Matters arising**

Peter Stevenson reported that the purchase of the OBC which was due to complete the following week.

There were still problems on Tuesday nights when locking was incomplete. Members are asked to please check that they have locked the windows and doors leading to the outside if they have opened them.

Alan Wilson requested that the OBC send regular invoices for the use of the premises. It was agreed that a more systematic approach would be welcomed.

**Green Point Event** set for June 2005 was progressing. **Oxfordshire County Congress.** Benson Village Hall had been booked for 3 weekends in June 2007. We are waiting for EBU approval. Volunteers for organising this congress were welcome

### **Ebu Delegates Report**

Peter Baxter report on the EBU October Meeting. There had been a small surplus of £7257 for the year 2003/4 which had been an uneventful year. Financially there was adequate liquidity. No progress on the National Bridge Centre. Master point revision had not as yet been progressed much. Law & Ethics Committee was still considering changes to announcing and alerting. There was a proposal to reduce the number of playing levels from 4 to 2- retaining levels 2 and 4. A team would be sent to the Commonwealth Games in 2 years time. A further paper on Master points had been received. The possible renaming/regrading of Master points was forecast. The meeting was asked its views on Master points. General view was that Master Points are an important incentive for club members and that their devaluation would be greatly deplored.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Alan Wilson said he had nothing very much to report. He wanted a policy review of table money to be collected from students. It was agreed that they should be charged a reduced amount of £1 but should be encouraged to join the OBA.

### **6. Chief Tournament Director's Report**

Stephen Brown thanked K. Jalie, Marion Day and S. Noble for help in directing on Tuesday nights and Lynne Hayes, Graham Elliott and Rita Todd for undertaking the scoring on Tuesday nights. Generally, events are running well.

### **7. Publicity Officer**

Brenda Harris reported that she had placed in the English Bridge magazine for the forthcoming Green Point Event. It was the size of 1/8 of a page at a cost of £210 plus VAT. She proposed to put another one for the following edition as well. Flyers are being prepared for the GP event and she proposes to get them placed as widely as possible at forthcoming events – the on-line congress, Tunisia etc. Press Releases published by the EBU informing publicity officers of achievements of EBU members in various events have been stopped. Brenda deplores this as she is dependent on them to an extent for information to put in her column in the EBU magazine. She asks that significant success of OBA members in national events be reported to her for inclusion in her magazine column.

### **8. Membership Secretary**

Jean Squires reported that EBU reminders for late payment had only arrived just before Christmas. Witney had somehow failed to send money at all. 683 members now – down again. Charges would increase: £15.50 (EBU) (£3) OBA for full members (£5 and £3 for Junior members). We should consider at the AGM whether to put OBA fees up.

## **9. President and Chester Cup Secretary**

President's Cup is on Schedule. Chester Cup only 3 out of 21 matches have been played, but Geoff Nicholas was confident that there would be a catch-up.

## **10. Tournament Secretary**

**Bill McCarthy** had reported that Beck Cup entries had been minimal so far. Sandra Landy trophy also poorly supported with only 7 pairs entered to date. A request to ensure that there are no clashes between County Pairs events and County matches, Regional National Pairs semi -finals, Portland pairs etc. There had been many problems this year.

## **11. Green Pointed Event**

**Keith Sadler** reported that things are progressing well. Need 34 tables to break even. Publicity is planned for numerous forthcoming events. He is confident that we will get some 60 tables.

## **12. Various competitions**

There was some discussion about the changing nature of the Harwell Cup and whether this should become an open event for multiple teams. To be discussed further. Also for discussion is whether we should have a Pro-Am competition again. Keith himself favoured dropping the Pro-Am as it had proved to be an enormous amount of work. The meeting strongly felt that the Pro-Am was a good competition and should be retained. Nick Smith (in absentia) had wondered whether the Dawes League should be included in the Premiership. Feeling was that it should not.

## **13. Duplimate Machine**

Further discussion on whether we should purchase one. The cost of a machine is in the order of £2-3K and there attendant costs – i.e. cards, boards etc. The upside is that you get really shuffled hands. The OBC and Summertown and OBA all have expressed an interest. There was some feeling that the expense outweighed the benefits. The matter was deferred for further discussion.

## **14. AOB**

Maxine Henry pointed out that a new Board was up.

Date of next meeting 21 April at 7.30.

## **15. Constitution and Bye-laws**

The meeting broke into two sections to review the bye-laws and constitution. Points raised were given to the Chairman who will do a thorough redraft from submission to the next meeting.