

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF
THE OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION HELD ON MONDAY 26
MARCH 2007**

1. Present:

Mary-Ann Sheehy	Secretary
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director (in the Chair)
Nick Smith	Match Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer
Geoff Nicholas	Wessex/President/Chester
Clive Keep	Abingdon
Esm� Alden	Oxford
Maxine Henry	Oxford
Petty Manuel	Oxford

2. Apologies:

Sandra Nicholson
Keith Sadler
Lynne Hayes
Bill Timms
Erika Sheppard
Sandra Claridge
Valerie Welch
Bill McCarthy
Trevor Dawn
Alison Nicolson

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 25 January 2007

These were approved subject to the removal of the sentence in d.: "No sub committees have yet been elected".

4. Matters arising

Bridgmate: Stephen reported that he had given 3 training sessions and planned to give one more. He knew that Graham Elliott and Cathy Rowland had expressed interest. Nick Smith expressed an interest an the meeting and Maxine Henry reported that : John Cecil, Krys K and Richard Sills all wanted more training. Stephen Suggested 21st April.

5. Officers reports:

a. Secretary

Mary-Ann Sheehy reported that she had attended a meeting at the EBU with Brenda Harris to discuss how to improve the profile of the EBU in order to

attract more membership. It was noted that whilst most counties have suffered a steady decline in members, Oxfordshire had done pretty well over the years. This was in large part due to the work of Sue Maxwell and her club. Her consultancy now with the EBU is designed to encourage others to do the same. What emerged was the following: A need for a procedure for conflict resolution in all counties. A suggestion that we might have a newsletter. (**The committee approved this in principle**). It was suggested that we might get results published in the local newspapers. The official line from the EBU is that their game aim is to make membership of the EBU mandatory to all club members.

b. Treasurer

Lynne had send in a paper entitled: Increase in Entry fees for OBA Tournaments. In this she proposed that the price of evens should be raised. These were discussed and agreed as follows:

Wessex League, Presidents Cup and Chester cup: No change
Men's, Ladies, Mixed and Swiss Pairs: from £6.50 to £7.50 per player
County Pairs, Semi Finals and Final from £2.50 to £3 per player
Beck Cup qualifying heat: from £5 up to £7.50 per player and for visitors in the final £30 per team (from £28)
Harwell cup up from £6.50 to £7.50
Daws, Porter and Markham League to go up to £6 per player.
Seniors up to £7.50 per player.

However it was agreed that where a tournament is restricted to 24 boards (e.g. Oxford times and Pro-Am there should be a reduction to £6 per player.

At the Congress the Friendly Pairs and Championship pairs no change proposed but that the GP event should go up to £22 to include food.

These changes are to take place in the next playing year and to be incorporated into the prospectus.

Whilst discussing the prospectus it was suggested that the Golfprint and the National Newcomers which are both 'county' events should be included. MA to ask Mike Fletcher for a date for the Golfprint. (MAS has spoken to MF who has promised to provide a provisional date)

c. Publicity

Brenda reported that she was going to put an advert in the next edition of English Bridge for the forthcoming Congress. She told of how successful the Oxford Times Cup had been and the pleasure the presence of the Editor for prize giving had given. She had also arranged for runners up to receive £5

each and for £7.50 each to be given to the winners among the genuine newcomers.

The fees payable to Max Booker who was directing the National Newcomers competition was discussed and it was agreed he should be paid the normal rate despite that the fact that he had played. This raised some discussion about rates and the cost to playing Directors in terms of disruption of their own games. The matter will be reviewed.

Brenda wished to raise the issue of entry qualifications for the Oxford Times cup competition and other Newcomer competitions. Her feeling (and this was agreed by all) was the 5000 master points maximum was way too high. The point is that these competitions are designed to attract genuine novices. It was therefore proposed that entries should be limited to 'genuine novices'. This was agreed. Entry fees to be payable in advance.

d. Tournament Secretary

Bill McCarthy reported that by changing the Beck Cup final date the entries had been down. It was agreed it was unfortunate that the date had to be changed. Discussion about the calendar being too squashed and whether things could be spread out a bit more. The Beck Cup heat had been cancelled due to lack of interest. NS suggested that the Harwell cup be treated as the Beck Cup heat. This was agreed. Bill wishes to give up the Beck Cup and County Pairs.

Urgent need: Replacement for Bill McCarthy

e. Match Secretary

Nick Smith reported that Oxfordshire had come:

2nd in Dawes Cup

1st in Porter

2nd In Markham

This is the best Oxfordshire has done in a long while and many congratulations to all those who played for Oxfordshire. He also reported that John Williams is retiring as Captain. Many thanks were expressed to John for being such a committed and brilliant captain. He will be sorely missed. Chris Cooper will act as Captain pro tem.

A new competition is being held on 15th July in Derbyshire. This will be a competition between the winners of all the inter regional competitions. Thus the B team will represent Oxfordshire.

f. Chief Tournament director

Stephen Brown pointed out that the benefit a playing director got on Tuesday nights was free entry. However, he felt that this might be insufficient given that it almost certainly reduces the Director's chances of doing well. This should be discussed at the AGM. It was noted that the numbers are down for

Tuesday nights. It was proposed that from 1st May the first Tuesday of the month would be scored as Butler Pairs. This may attract many of the stronger players who much prefer teams.

g. Membership Secretary

Sandra Claridge was not present. She sent a message to the effect that she felt she must stand down as Membership Secretary since other commitments required to much of her time. Membership stands as follows:

Full 666

Juniors 14

BFA 69.

Urgent : new Membership Secretary needed

h. EBU Shareholders

Sandra Claridge also sent this report: The Selection Committee recommended not this year because there appeared to be insufficient interest, and there is only one recognised partnership. Otherwise the Union will be ahead of budget for the year with a projected surplus of around £80K, largely due to savings on salaries (it probably means that they get me cheap!!). However, next year doesn't look so rosy. The new Focus on Value has to be funded, there is a very heavy international year and they are recruiting two full-time and two part-time members of staff.

i. Chairman

Keith was not present but had sent a message saying that he was indeed standing down in June. **A successor is urgently needed.** Keith is happy to continue to run the Congress and has booked Benson for the next 2 years.

AOB

Stephen Brown demonstrated the duplimate machine.