

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Oxford Bridge Association held on Monday 26
November 2007 at 7.30 p.m**

Present: Stephen Brown (Acting Chair)
Mary-Ann Sheehy (Secretary)
Lynne Hayes (Treasurer)
Alison Nicolson (Education Officer)
Brenda Harris (Publicity)
Norman Gascoyne (Wallingford)
Marion Sheppard (Oxford)
John Barlow (Frilford)

Apologies: Peter Baxter
Erica Sheppard
Sandra Nicholson
Clive Keep
Gordon Carroll
Nick Smith
Alan Grunwald
Kathy Talbot
Richard Sills
John Briggs
Peggy Manuell
Esme Alden
Valerie Welch
Rita Todd

1. The Minutes of the meeting of 13 September 2007 were approved.

2. Matters arising:

Keith Sadler had written to say that he was resigning from organising the Congress and Green Point Events forthwith. The meeting expressed great regret at this news and asked Stephen Brown to contact Keith and try to dissuade him.

The Oxford Times cup event had taken place and had gone well. There had been a complaint that it was only at the actual event that the systems to be played were restricted to simple systems only. This will be put into the prospectus next year. Alison proposed that the simple system order should be in place for 3 years and then perhaps run two events on the same day. One Simple system and one level 2.

3. Reports

1. Acting Chairman/Chief Tournament Director

Stephen Brown: It has been a busy two months. Unfortunately Rita has been unable to take entries so I have filled in taking these. To reduce the risk of someone entering but not being placed on the list, all players must enter using the entry form or by email directly to myself.

I have been doing the master points and both the congress in September and the Jul-Sep master points were direct credited mid- October. The congress in September went well and many thanks to Keith Sadler for coordinating all this.

Many thanks to Clive who is about to deal with the County Pairs. All clubs make sure that I have the results, addressed envelopes for top half and a list of which semi-finals these players can play in. When I have all the stuff I will send on the Clive.

Thanks to all officers who have sent in reports. This should allow us to discuss issues rather than read out reports. Many thanks to Mary-Ann for collating them and sending them back to the officers. Anyone who needs a paper copy, please let Mary-Ann know.

Many thanks to Alison Nicholson who has filled in whilst Esme is recovering by doing the Oxfordshire Teas and thanks to Brenda for all her publicity work.

Rita has resigned owing to family matters. Will return when she can. Mary-Ann reported that Alan Grunwald was probably willing to take over from Rita as Tournament Secretary. Stephen to provide a job description. Master point Secretary still required.

2. Secretary

Mary-Ann Sheehy reported that she had been requested to act as intermediary between Oxon Club Secretaries and the EBU with regard to the EBU's questionnaire to Clubs regarding their view on the proposed charging changes. This she had done.

3. League Secretary

Wessex League: small numbers of matches to be rescheduled. Otherwise ok.

Presidents Cup: competition is currently within fixed time frames.

Chester Cup: One match played with a large number arrange.

Given slight problems in recent seasons I will "chase" captains for an updated

at the end of this month.

4. Membership secretary

Maxine Henry: This is my report as Membership sec;

As of the 5th of November 2007 we have 731 paid members, there are 128 who paid last year and have not yet renewed.

I noticed several people playing in County events who were not OBA members. I have spoken to a few, but I still need to contact others.

With regard to non EBU members entering it was agreed that Maxine would try to keep an eye on the entries as they come in and alert those trying to enter of the necessity to join the EBU.

5. Treasurer's Report

Balance in Current and Savings Accounts

The Coventry Account was finally closed and the money was transferred to the Standard Life Savings account.

Account	Balance	Balance
	01/09/2007	01/11/2007
Lloyds/TSB Current Account	£ 3947.39	£ 2838.20
Standard Life Savings Account	£ 1360.58	£13360.58
Coventry Fixed Bond Savings Fund	£11671.75	Closed
Total	£16979.72	£16198.78

Accounts for the Oxfordshire Green Point Swiss Teams, September 2007

Income	£
Entry Fees: 38 x £84	3192.00
Light Refreshments	117.05
Total	3309.05

Expenditure	£
Advertising in English Bridge	176.25
Duplication of Boards	90.00
Tournament Directors and Scorer	353.75
Catering	542.50
Hire of Benson Hall	402.00
Prizes	500.00
Licence fees to EBU	551.00
Purchase of Light Refreshments	42.56
Total	2658.06
Profit	650.99

It was agreed that those who had had to pay for the Dawes League room hire v. Lincolnshire would be reimbursed.

6. Publicity Secretary

1) Publicity:

- a) Posters (extremely labour-intensive & **not** cost-effective) – are NOT displayed/announced at most clubs.
- b) Newsletters (**extremely** cost/labour effective). Consider as alternative to (a). If agreed, quarterly should be adequate.
- c) Harwell/Beck Cup, Pro-Am posters probably required (too late for Dec newsletter which will be delivered early Dec.)
- d) Ox Times Cup most successful; Should Simple System only be permitted; comps needed for players 1 stage up.

2) EBU AGM (Oct 07):

- a) Minutes can be read online.
- b) EBU Strategy – Urgent meeting needed OBA/Clubs (EBU rep in attendance). Several dates are available.

Delegates Meeting

As far as the debate over the EBU strategy is concerned, it was agreed that Delegates would be asked to attend a special meeting to discuss the final proposals and how EBU delegates are to vote. This is set for May 29. Brenda will organise. There is great difficulty in getting people to actually attend meetings. At Brenda's suggestion it was agreed that bridge will be played after this meeting and after the AGM. – a bottle of wine or something will be the prize rather than masterpoints. Tea and coffee will also be served.

It was agreed that Brenda will stop sending out posters and will use the newsletter to advertise forthcoming events. Too late for the Harwell/Beck cups and the pro/am though and posters will be used for this. Pro-am Poster should include the fact that Standard English Green Card will be the system used.

Newsletter's front page to be used for the advertising of forthcoming events only.

Website

It appears to be impossible to get the webpage with Richard Lonsdale's link up and running. Stephen Brown's webpage is hosting the OBA website. The link for this is:

<http://homepages.tesco.net/~stephenbrown/index.html> or

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/counties.aspx> and click on (Web) beside Oxfordshire.

Bill McCarthy's website where Wessex League details can be found is:

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/aylesbury/>.

7. Education Secretary

Alison Nicolson: Junior Sessions are continuing at Oxford Bridge Club on alternate Sundays. Extra helpers would be appreciated, as we prefer each tutor to be chaperoned. We have had a couple of new children start, one coming from Droitwich, as there is nowhere nearer for her to play with children her own age.

On Sunday 9th of December we are holding a heat of the School Sim Pairs. We hope to get children from local schools to come & play.

Jo Murray has offered to teach bridge at Oxford Community School, and a set of wallets, cards & other materials have been requested from the EBU.

Adult classes are being run in Aylesbury, Oxford, Wallingford, Charlbury and Abingdon. Occasional sessions are also held at Blewbury.

Alison said that Marryat desperately needs volunteers to help on Sundays. Mary-Ann and Brenda offered to help.

3. Any other business:

Stephen raised the fact that printing is proving more expensive than anticipated mainly due to toner prices. Proposed price goes to from £2 to £3. This was agreed. Cost of replacing the cards was also discussed. Suggested that they would probably last 6 years. Stephen would try to work out how much should be included in each deal to pay for the replacement costs.

Stephen is willing to give another training session on the Bridgemate. 8 December at 4p.m.

Esme hopes to return by 1st January. Alison can do the teas until then. But should Esme not be fit by 1 January there may be a need for someone to do the catering. Stephen to ask Pauline.

Some complaints had been received regarding the standard of the Wessex League venues. Some are too cold etc.