

Oxfordshire Bridge Association

65th Annual General Meeting

Monday 13 June 2011 at the Oxford Bridge Club

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Present:

Sandra Nicholson	Secretary/EBU Shareholder
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Geoff Nicholas	League Secretary
Vicky Fleming	Membership Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer/EBU Shareholder
Marryat Stevens	Youth Officer

Robert Procter	Auditor
Lynne Hayes	Trophies and Honours Boards
David Bygott	Newsletter Editor
Holly Kilpatrick	Congress Organiser

Esme Alden, Oxford	Brenda MacDonagh, Banbury
Carol Benzie, Summertown	Claire MacDonagh, Oxford
Michael Buckner, Oxford	David Marsh, Witney
Chris Dawe, Oxford	Rex Moore, Blewbury
Pat Dunn, Blewbury	Shirley Moore, Blewbury
Joanna Donkin, Oxford	Avis Roberts, Wantage
Peter Finbow, Wallingford	Alan Parker, Wantage
John Fleming, Oxford	Peter Russell
Norman Gascoyne, Wallingford	Stuart Scott, Oxford
Robert Gasser, Summertown	Richard Sills, Oxford
Francis Glassborow, Wallingford	John Slater, Oxford
Frank Harris, Oxford	Paul Smith, Witney
Simon Harrison, Oxford	Andrew Speyer, Abingdon
Hugo Huggett, Oxford	Kathy Talbot, Oxford
Deirdre Jalie, Oxford	Rita Todd, Oxford
Krishan Jalie, Oxford	Paul Watson, Witney
Colin Jones, Wallingford	John Williams
Helen Lawton Smith, Oxford	Alan Wilson

Apologies for Absence:

Evan Harris	President
John Briggs	Chairman
Dinah Lintott	Treasurer
Alan Grunwald	Tournament Secretary/Webmaster

Michael Allen, Blewbury	Ian Seward, Frilford Heath
Kay Chamberlain, Faringdon	Erica Sheppard, Summertown
Kate Davies	Peter Sherry, Oxford
Arthur Jones, Wantage	Denis Talbot, Oxford
Elizabeth Kenworthy-Browne	Gillian Weatherley, Wallingford

In the absence of the President and the Chairman, the Chief Tournament Director explained that he would chair the first part of the meeting until the election of the new Chairman, after which that person would take over.

2. Approval of Minutes of 64th AGM

The minutes were unanimously approved – proposed Frank Harris, seconded Francis Glassborow.

3. Matters arising

Francis Glassborow raised a concern regarding the County website. Having ascertained that this was not a matter directly related to the minutes of the previous meeting, it was agreed that it should be referred to the next meeting of the Management Committee.

4. Officers' Reports

(Written officers' reports were circulated with the Agenda. Items minuted here are only those which were raised at the meeting itself.)

- ❖ **Chairman:** See report previously circulated.
Richard Sills pointed out that the website referred to in this report, where details of the options for the future of the Banbury Road premises could be viewed, should read “www.oxfordbridgeclub.com/premises-docs”.
- ❖ **Treasurer:** See report previously circulated.
In the absence of the Treasurer, the Auditor commented that although the list of receipts and payments was accurate, a historical accounting record of this nature produced some anomalies when comparing the accounts from year to year, because income and expenditure did not always occur in the same period as the activity to which they were related. In particular:
 - Capitation payments, which in previous years had normally been delayed to the following accounting year, had now caught up

- The new P2P licence fees for running leagues had not yet been paid for last year's events, so there would be an additional £510 of expenditure to come in the current year that should have been in the previous year
- £672 of receipts for the June 2011 Congress was shown in the accounts for 2010-2011.

Taking all the above into account, he calculated that the "real" surplus for 2010-2011 should be approximately £2,300 rather than £3,000. The difference of approximately £1,500 between that and the previous year's results was almost entirely due to the gap between the previous subscription income of £4 per member and the 2010-2011 County P2P charge of 3p per play. For 2011-2012 the P2P figure had been set at 6p, which he anticipated would generate an additional £1,600. The Treasurer had proposed that this figure should remain unaltered for 2012-13 and he supported that recommendation.

Francis Glassborow asked why a non-profit making organisation needed to carry on making a surplus every year when there were substantial reserves. The Auditor replied that when he had raised this same issue himself the previous year, he had expected that it would encourage the Association to take a more strategic view of risks and long term aims, rather than merely seek ways to spend the funds. He suggested that further discussion could be taken under the agenda item on use of funds.

Approval of the accounts (including the 2012-2013 P2P amount) was formally proposed by Robert Procter, seconded by Alan Wilson, and agreed nem.con.

- ❖ **Secretary:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **Chief Tournament Director:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **Tournament Secretary:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **League Secretary:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **Match Secretary:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **Membership Secretary:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **Publicity Officer:** See report previously circulated.

Francis Glassborow said that he felt that there was insufficient publicity for County tournaments. The Publicity Officer responded that in addition to the advertising on the County website and in the Newsletter, she ensured that all clubs received copies of flyers with a request to put them out on tables and noticeboards. The Congress Organiser added that she could not agree there was any problem with publicity for the Congress, since it was now seriously oversubscribed. Francis Glassborow suggested that affiliated clubs should be asked to advertise OBA events on their own websites and provide links to the

relevant part of the County website. This proposal was referred to the next Management Committee meeting.

The Newsletter Editor commented that it was easy to send information to people but far more difficult to get them to respond. In particular, he was disappointed with the entries for the prize competition he had organised for the most recent issue of the Newsletter, and urged those present to encourage more response. The Chief Tournament Director added that he had received a similarly disappointing lack of response to his request for comments on the first draft of the new County prospectus.

- ❖ **EBU Shareholders:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **Education Officer:** No report, as post currently vacant.
- ❖ **Youth Officer**
Marryat Stevens explained that, while the EBU currently offered free membership to juniors, the OBA did not. In order to keep track of young people learning bridge at school, he proposed that we should offer free direct membership of OBA to all junior players in Oxfordshire who were EBU members, with their addresses to be registered as care of the school if the school so wished. This proposal was seconded by Kathy Talbot and carried nem.con.
- ❖ **Webmaster:** See report previously circulated.
- ❖ **Congress Organiser:** See report previously circulated.
Holly Kilpatrick supported the view, expressed by the Tournament Secretary in his written report, that the County should investigate the possibility of using a larger venue in 2012, although the hall at Steventon had already been provisionally booked, and it might be difficult to find anywhere suitable that would be cost-effective. It was agreed that this should be reviewed at the next Management Committee meeting, when it was hoped that a detailed report on the Congress would be available.

On behalf of the Association, the Chief Tournament Director thanked all the officers and other volunteers for their work during the past year.

5. Election of Officers

The Chief Tournament Director led the election of the new Chairman, who took the opportunity to present a statement on what he hoped to achieve in the role (also previously circulated by email). He then chaired the rest of the elections and the remainder of the meeting.

All of those listed below stood unopposed and were elected nem.con.:

- ❖ Chairman: Robert Procter, prop. John Briggs, sec. Sandra Nicholson
- ❖ Secretary: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Erica Sheppard, sec. Christopher Sheppard
- ❖ Treasurer: Dinah Lintott, prop. Lynne Hayes, sec. Alan Wilson
- ❖ Chief Tournament Director: Stephen Brown, prop. Kathy Talbot, sec. Brenda Harris
- ❖ Tournament Secretary: Alan Grunwald, prop. Alan Wilson, sec. Robert Procter
- ❖ League Secretary: Geoff Nicholas, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Krishan Jalie
- ❖ Match Secretary: Ian Angus, prop. Stephen Brown, sec. Alan Wilson
- ❖ Membership Secretary: Vicky Fleming, prop. Brenda Harris, sec. Sandra Nicholson
- ❖ Publicity Officer: Brenda Harris, prop. Christopher Sheppard, sec. Peter Briggs
- ❖ EBU Shareholders: Sandra Nicholson, prop. Kathy Talbot, sec. Peter Finbow
Brenda Harris, prop. Max Booker, sec. Mary-Ann Sheehy
Alan Wilson, prop. Brenda Harris, sec. Sandra Nicholson
- ❖ Education Officer: Claire MacDonagh, prop. Brenda Harris, sec. John Briggs
- ❖ Youth Officer: Marryat Stevens, prop. Sandra Nicholson, sec. Peter Finbow
- ❖ Club Committee Representative (new post): Krishan Jalie, prop. Geoff Nicholas, sec. Esme Alden
- ❖ Internet Officer (new post): Alan Grunwald, prop. Alan Parker, sec. Holly Kilpatrick.
- ❖ Selection Committee:
Nominations had been received for:
Andrew Lintott: Aylesbury
David Bygott: Summertown
Kathy Talbot was nominated at the meeting by Oxford.
The remainder of the Selection Committee would be confirmed at the next meeting of the Management Committee. It was not anticipated that there would be any changes.
- ❖ Auditor: John Briggs, prop. Robert Procter, sec. Sandra Nicholson.

6. **Substantive items for discussion**

(a) Alternative venues for OBA meetings and events

Francis Glassborow explained that over the past 30 years, it had become more and more difficult to drive into the city centre, and parking charges and restrictions were constantly increasing. He felt it was time to look at alternatives outside the central area.

There was some debate as to the extent to which the Banbury Road premises were directly affected by increasing parking restrictions, and it was suggested that we needed to ask the City Council what their future plans for the area might be. Regardless of this, the Chairman said that he hoped that the question of alternative

venues would be one of the areas to be covered by his proposed membership survey, which would be discussed at the next meeting of the Management Committee. He felt that it should then be possible for the Management Committee to implement any clearly indicated changes without needing to wait for the next AGM. He also thought that it was necessary to look more widely at what needed to be done generally to maximise participation in events, particularly County Night.

Alan Parker suggested that the survey of individuals' views should be accompanied by a questionnaire from the committee to clubs. Francis Glassborow added that it might also be helpful for a representative of the Management Committee to attend committee meetings of some of the larger clubs in order to hear their views face to face.

(b) Proposals for the development of bridge in Oxfordshire

Francis Glassborow explained that he felt it was important for the Association to have a strategic plan and said he felt that some elements of this might not emerge from a survey: for example, he would like to see bridge being taught both to schoolchildren and to senior citizens, perhaps living in sheltered accommodation.

The Chairman agreed that a strategic view should be taken. He commented, however, that whilst he was sure there were further areas for development, he had recently discovered that whilst the overall ratio of EBU members to the total population of England was 1 in 1,000, in Oxfordshire it was more than double that figure, and he felt we could take some comfort from this.

(c) and (d) Use of OBA resources and reserve funds

The Chairman explained that the Management Committee had already decided not to support individual clubs, which he believed was in line with the Association's objectives as set down in the County Constitution: however, he took the view that the proposed survey should include the opportunity for members to suggest changes to those objectives. He reaffirmed his support for the view that it was important to begin by creating a strategy, and that the use of funds should then flow from that.

7. Presentation of Prizes

The prizes were presented as follows:

Event	Winners
Ladies' Pairs	Cathy Rowland & Mary-Ann Sheehy
Men's Pairs	Ron Quainton & Peter Russell
Swiss Pairs	Ron Quainton & Peter Russell
Mixed Pairs	Jo Murray & Malcolm Currie

Swiss Teams

Ed Scerri, Richard Palmer, Harvey Bengen,
Kevin Elstow