

# **Minutes of Meeting of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association Management Committee on Thursday 2 September 2004**

## **Present:**

Sandy Constable	President
Keith Sadler	Chairman
Mary-Ann Sheehy	Secretary
Alan Wilson	Treasurer
Jean Squires	Membership Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer
Geoff Nicholas	President's and Chester Cup Officer
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Sandra Claridge	Menagerie & Ebu Delegate
Brian Claridge	Wessex League Secretary
Gordon Carroll	Abingdon
Norman Gascoyne	Wallingford
Frank Harris	Oxford
Maxine Henry	Oxford
David Walton	Abingdon
Clive Keep	Abingdon
Isobel Townley-Freeman	Wallingford
Sandra Nicholson	Summertown
Krys Kazierczak	Summertown
David Marsh	Witney
Ina Merriman	Witney

## **1. Apologies:**

Bill McCarthy	Tournament Secretary
Nick Smith	Match Secretary
Peter Baxter	Wallingford
Esme Alden	Oxford
Peggy Manuell	Oxford
Royd Laidlow	Oxford
John Gunn	Faringdon

## **2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting:**

These were approved subject to the following:

Alan Wilson's apologies had been omitted.

## **3. Matters arising**

No matters arising outside of agenda items.

## **4. EBU Delegates Report**

Brenda Harris gave a full report of the April and July Meetings. Copy of Report is attached.

Highlights:

Treasurer's reports extremely depressing

Bridge For All to be rethought and remarketed as it is losing significant amounts of money

Duplicate machines arrangements are still unsatisfactory

Bridge terminals for downloading bidding and scoring are being looked at for future use. Expense may be a great problem

The revised format for the Camrose (2 weekends only) was deplored by some

Newcomers competitions seem to be abused by long standing players. Rethink ongoing.

14 July Sports Show. The minibridge had been extremely popular at the show. Peter Jordan had been heavily involved.

- 8 Tony Forrester and Terry Collier will be working together through TF's column on Daily Telegraph to attract people who are not members of clubs and play at home.

- 9 Subscriptions to go up by 50p;

No increase in cost of Masterpoints

County Secretaries' meeting cancelled.

Discussions re the National Bridge Centre and how best to proceed are ongoing.

English Bridge (magazine) may change in emphasis and concentrate more on beginners and improvers, more letters and more personalities rather than bridge problems and more advertising.

Alerting is to be simplified and the revoke laws revised.

## 5. **Wessex League**

Brian reported that there had been a reasonable turnout. It must be recognised that it is the most successful competition with 41 teams involved. Continuing concern regarding University. There is an issue about the membership of University members to Oxfordshire. Some students are only affiliate to their home counties. It was stressed that other than in the fifth division, players in the Wessex league had to be members of OBA .

## 6. **Financial Matters**

### a. **The financial statement presented to the AGM**

An opportunity was given for those present to raise any queries they might have on the contents of the Financial Statement presented to the AGM. No queries were raised

- b. OBA Expenses Policy paper drawn up by a sub-committee was submitted for discussion. The final and approved text is attached. There was, after discussion, a proposal regarding Dawes/Porter/Markham League put forward by Sandra Claridge and Second by Stephen Brown as follows:

The match fee is set at £5 a head for both home and away matches, which should be paid to the captain for home matches and the driver for away matches. (This should be broadly sufficient to cover the cost of petrol to most matches if 4 people travel in a car, although the driver is free to negotiate a higher (or lower) fee with his/her passengers if he/she feels the cost of petrol is not covered adequately.) Travel to home matches, or from further than Oxford to away matches is not covered.

The Proposal was carried nem con.

- c. **OBC/OBA**  
Peter Stevenson had reported that the purchase of the premises was proceeding satisfactorily. No request had been forthcoming from assistance from the County. The meeting felt that assistance should not be offered since it would be unfair to give assistance just to OBC rather than every club in the county. It was pointed out that the OBA pays rent for the use of the premises.

#### 7. **Green Point Event**

The Chairman reported that he and Stephen and Alison Nicolson had met in Brighton and agreed the following for the Green Point event:

- d. 7 x 7 board match
- e. Duplimated boards but at a reduced cost
- f. Pairs
- g. Level 3
- h. Sports centre to provide the refreshments
- i. Stephen Brown Chief Tournament Director
- j. Other directors to be appointed by EBU
- k. 34 tables needed to break even
- l. Cost: £20 per head
- m. Profit split 50/50 between EBU and OBA (no choice) Hall will cost about £900 plus stationery etc.
- n. A stand by pair will be required
- o. Advertisements in the February and April English Bridge editions
- p. Contact will be made with neighbouring counties to publicise the event on their websites.
- q. Flyers will be distributed and members are asked to distribute flyers at any green point events they attend from December onwards.
- r. The EBU website will be asked to advertise and provide a link to our website where the event is already advertised.
- s. Alison will organise the Reception.
- t. Masterpoints will be awarded directly.
- u. All Oxfordshire members are encouraged to attend and members are asked to spread the word.

#### 8. **Proposed Oxfordshire Congress**

There is a proposal for a county congress in June 2006 at Benson Village Hall which can accommodate 45 tables. Fri/Sat/Sun. Pairs/championship pairs/green-pointed swiss teams on Sunday was a suggested format. There were other proposal which would be discussed and decided on by a sub-committee consisting of Keith Sadler, Stephen Brown, Mary-Ann Sheehy and Sandra Claridge. The first meeting will take place at 6.15 on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 9. **Constitution**

Keith Sadler reported that he proposed to revise the Constitution in the light of the comments received from the EBU and with the help of Alan Wilson would bring it to the next meeting for discussion.

#### 10. **President's cup and Chester Cup.**

Geoff Nicholas reported that the entries for these two competitions were up from last year and proposed to delay the draw for these two competitions by two weeks. This was agreed by the meeting.

#### 11. **Summer League**

There will be a summer league next year. Keith Sadler will be summer league secretary.

12. **AOB**

Brenda Harris asked the meeting whether she should continue sending out to club secretaries posters for OBA competitions since the return she felt was not very good. The meeting felt that on the contrary the return was really pretty good running at about 25% of new competitors and Brenda was to be thanked for her efforts and asked to continue despite the cost of £11 per competition.

Krys reported that Summertown frequently received phonecalls from people who were beginners and needed to know where they could receive lessons. He undertook to gather the information countywide which could be put on the website. The Management Committee is extremely grateful to Krys for undertaking this task which when complete will provide a very useful tool for the county.

The issue of whether to purchase a duplimate machine was raised again. Stephen Brown promised to be in touch with a man from Banbury who can assist.

13. **Date of Next meeting**

Monday 10 January 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

Oxfordshire Bridge Association

Expenses policy, Sept 2004

Alan Wilson - Treasurer

This policy is based on the outcome of discussions with a sub-committee appointed by the Management Committee in January to assist the Treasurer in formulating a consistent policy towards paying expenses, etc, followed by discussion by the Management Committee at its September meeting. It is being made available to officers/members of OBA to avoid uncertainty and to make life easier for future incoming treasurers! It is not intended to affect existing arrangements materially, but rather to clarify the approach where this is not clear (at least to the current treasurer!). Any suggestions for additions to the issues covered will be gratefully received.

### **1 Officers' expenses**

The principle behind the paying of officers' expenses is that while officers' time is provided on a voluntary basis, they should not be expected to be out of pocket as a result of fulfilling their duties. So normal expenses for items such as postage, printing, travelling to represent the association at EBU meetings, etc will be reimbursed by the Treasurer in response to a claim, which should be accompanied by receipts for actual expenses paid out wherever this is practical.

Where travel expenses through private car use are incurred, for example in travelling to EBU meetings on behalf of OBA or where non-playing directors are used at county events, petrol will be reimbursed up to a maximum currently set at 24p a mile. (Note that travel to OBA meetings is not covered by this policy.)

### **2. Expenses for Dawes/Porter/Markham League matches**

The association has decided that the cost of travel to away matches where players are representing the county in the midlands inter-county leagues (i.e. the Dawes, Porter and Markham trophies) should be covered by match fees rather than by a specific mileage allowance. This match fee is set at £5 a head for both home and away matches, which should be paid to the captain for home matches and the driver for away matches. (This should be broadly sufficient to cover the cost of petrol to most matches if 4 people travel in a car, although the driver is free to negotiate a higher (or lower) fee with his/her

passengers if he/she feels the cost of petrol is not covered adequately.) Travel to home matches, or from further than Oxford to away matches is not covered.

### **3. Expenses for other representative competitions**

OBA pays the entry fees to the EBU for competitions where players are representing the county in the Tollemache, Garden Cities, Pachabo and Reg Corwen trophies (and also any invitational teams competitions organised by surrounding counties to which Oxfordshire is invited to send a team). In these cases players are expected to pay their own travel expenses, but for competitions requiring an overnight stay accommodation expenses may be covered. For competitions where players have qualified through county competitions (ie the Pachabo and Reg Corwen) this is based on B&B terms, with players expected to cover the cost of any evening meals themselves. Where players are selected specifically to represent the OBA in the Tollemache, this will normally be on half board terms or up to the equivalent if the evening meal is not eaten in the hotel. In any case the cost of any drinks with the meal will be expected to be covered by the players themselves.