

Minutes of Meeting of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association Management Committee on Thursday 8 September 2005.

Present:

Keith Sadler	Chairman
David Stead	Treasurer
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Mary-Ann Sheehy	Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer
Geoff Nicholas	President's and Chester Cup Secretary
Gordon Carroll	Abingdon
Peter Baxter	Wallingford
Norman Gascoyne	Wallingford
Ina Merriman	Witney
David Marsh	Witney
Frank Harris	Oxford
Kathy Talbot	Oxford
Maxine Henry	Oxford
Esme Alden	Oxford
Peggy Manuell	Oxford
Brian Claridge	Wessex League Secretary
Sandra Claridge	EBU Rep
Alan Grunwald	Wantage

1. Apologies:

Sandy Constable	President
Bill McCarthy	Tournament Secretary
Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Sandra Nicolson	Summertown
Jean Squires	Membership Secretary
Peter Stevenson	Oxford
Erica Sheppard	Summertown
Isobel Townley Freeman	Wallingford
David Walton	Abingdon
Nick Smith	Match Secretary

2. Minutes of the last meeting were approved with the correction of the spelling of Peter Stevenson.

3. Matters arising:

Stephen Brown reported that a clear instruction not to post results of the simultaneous pairs heats on ANY websites had been given. He also reassured the meeting that a tiny number of people had played in more than one heat and had always done worse the second time round! It was noted that that competition has become very popular. With regard to the OUBC requests, no further communication had been received.

4. Officers reports:

In the absence of the Membership Secretary, the Chairman reported that membership was down a little. The Tournament Secretary (also absent) had

sent his apologies and had asked the Chairman to report that he would be resigning at the end of the year for 3 reasons. 1. it takes too much time. 2. The Pro Am competition is too much of a headache. 3. The County Pairs competition is too much of a headache.

EBU Report

A report given by Brenda Harris is attached. A correction regarding the note on the Camrose was made. This increase related to a Senior Camrose competition and was thought to be inadequate.

The discussion which followed the report centred around the proposal to use Kettering for congresses. The first competition to be held there is the Tollemache. There has proved to be great difficulty in finding suitable hotel accommodation for the competitors. John Williams had reported how difficult it was. The EBU has reserved the centre for 17 competitions. General feeling was that time will tell whether the venue is suitable or not. Unfortunately that the Tollemache is the first competition. There is a fear that the Kettering centre would be sold on and that commitments made by the owners of the Centre would not be honoured. As regards selling the property in Aylesbury and moving staff to Kettering it was thought that this would be delayed.

Making staff redundant and training new staff would be hugely expensive and likely not affordable by the EBU.

There was much discussion regarding the powers of the EBU Shareholders. It was pointed out that they elect the Directors who by and large are the same every year. It is the Directors who actually make the decisions. One problem with any attempt to dislodge the Directors, if they are deemed to be inadequate, is that they would have to be replaced. Their job is a. unpaid b. very time consuming and c. pretty thankless. It would be very hard to find replacements. EBU Shareholders have limited liability.

The EBU Shareholders were being asked to vote for two contested places on the EBU board. The feeling of the meeting was that they should use their own judgment.

Publicity Officer

Reported that the Bridge in Oxford was proving an enormous success. It was likely to produce a profit of some £436 which she was very concerned would go to benefit the county.

Chief Tournament Director

A discussion on the possibility of purchasing a Duplimate machine was led by Stephen Brown (with the Treasurer declaring a conflict of interests so not participating except when requested to). Summertown had proposed splitting the cost of the purchase of one duplimate machine with the County. 1 duplimate machine with 8 sets of boards numbered 1-48 would cost approximately £3200. There are add on costs, playing cards, running the machine (about £4 a go), and curtain cards. After much discussion and a vote it was decided that the County should buy one duplimate machine which would be available for any club to use but would stay at Stephen's house. Each club that wished to use it would have to buy their own supply of cards and boards. There were some dissenters (namely those from Aylesbury, Wallingford, and Abingdon who felt. David Stead promised to deliver the duplimate machine with cards and boards within three weeks.

Stephen Brown also apologised for the delay in delivery of the prospectus. There had been a few logistical problems which would not be repeated. He wish to thank all those who had acted as director in his absence, particularly Marion Day who had directed the Harwell Cup.

He requested that he should be notified of any errors in the prospectus ASAP.

Nick Smith had written a paper on the premiership suggesting certain changes. The feeling was that at present it was too new a competition to change the current format other than adding the Harwell Cup.

Three events for which posters would be prepared: Novice, Oxford Cup and Pro Am. There was discussion about the level at which people could enter the newcomer type competitions. It was thought that it would be reduced from under 5000 master points to 2500.

Treasurer

Apologised for delay in setting up the banking system and failure to pay out OBA funds since the AGM. This was in part due to Barclay's Bank being unbelievably slow for which they have no apologised. There were members present who made it clear they wished only to receive cash rather than cheques and found the system difficult to work with. The Treasurer promised to try to sort it out.

He reported that there was a great deal of cash in the bank and we were well able to afford a Duplimate machine (and a second if it proved necessary).

Chairman

The Chairman reported on the following:

County Congress in June: Pairs on the Saturday (Black pointed); Swiss Teams on the Sunday (Green Pointed). There is a county cup "Championship Pairs" and it was suggested that this should be used. The afternoon session on the Saturday should be the heat for the Championship pairs.

Those not qualifying for the final will be invited to participate in the Silver Salver (which the county should purchase now). There should also be cash prizes for the top 6 in each flight. These proposals were approved by the meeting.

Keith also thanks Brenda Harris for all her hard work on the Bridge in Oxford day. She reported that she was pleased with the outcome and proposed to arrange a second such event. She pointed out that it was a good way to encourage EBU membership since she charged extra for the non EBU members.

Keith reported that Bill McCarthy was not prepared to act as Tournament Secretary after this year because (in part) of the Pro Am competition which is a huge pain. He made a big appeal for all players present to participate. It will be held on 20 November. It was suggested that this event should be sponsored by the OBA and that table money should be reduced. All agreed. For his part (and Bill McCarthy's) Keith felt that the Pro-Am competition is extremely hard work, unrewarding and time-consuming. He urged the committee to approve a ruling that it should be dropped. This was not forthcoming pro tem.

There had earlier been a discussion about the use of OBA funds. In general the view of the meeting was that whilst requests for assistance from clubs would be considered, in general the funds were intended to be used so that all clubs could benefit rather than individual clubs. There were exceptions, e.g. courses for Tournament directors.

5. AOB. Stephen Brown asked if anyone wanted to write the booklet for the hands to be play in the Simultaneous Pairs.