

Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee Oxfordshire Bridge Association on Monday 11 September 2006

Present:

Sandy Constable	President
Keith Sadler	Chairman
Mary-Ann Sheehy	Secretary
Stephen Brown	Tournament Director
Lynne Hayes	Treasurer
Sandra Claridge	Membership Secretary and EBU Rep
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer and EBU Rep
Geoff Nicholas	President/Chester/Wessex League Director
Gordon Carroll	Abingdon
Clive Keep	Abingdon
Alan Grunwald	Wantage
Maxine Henry	Oxford
Kathy Talbot	Oxford
Esme Alden	Oxford
Norman Gascoyne	Wallingford.

Apologies: Sandra Nicholson, Nick Smith, Peggy Manuell, Rita Todd, Peter Baxter, Isobel Townley Freeman

1. Minutes of last meeting

These were approved subject to following changes:
Brenda had undertaken to seek sponsorship from editor of the Oxford Times.

2. Matters arising

The tea levy was increased to £3 whilst the charge for the event would stay the same for this year but would be raised by 50p next year. The Minute Book had finally been returned.
Brenda had indeed been to the editor of the Oxford Times and he had agreed to sponsor the Oxford Times Cup competition to the tune of £40 a year and also to pay for an Honours Board (£150)

3. Officers Reports

1. Treasurer

Lynne Hayes produced a sheet showing the current state of affairs. There had been a large amount of expenditure and she was still sorting out the accounts. She has had difficulty in arranging not signatories for the various deposit accounts and therefore had been unable to access the funds there. Had been a slight cashflow crisis but income will start pouring in and all is under control now.
Her sheet showed that the Congress had run at a small loss.

2. Chairman

The Chairman led a discussion on a review of the Congress. Regret was expressed regarding the small loss incurred. This seems primarily due to the fact that we had not charged for catering and this had been a large cost. However all present agreed that it had been a huge success and all those involved were thanked for the very hard work done. It was also agreed that profit making is by no means the most important factor. During the review of the Congress the Chairman pointed out that whilst nobody on the Management Committee had volunteered to help in the end he had received help from Alistair Gidman and Peter Russell. The issue of offers for help was discussed in depth. Basically, nobody offers to help and this puts an enormous strain on the Chairman who carries all the responsibility.

There then followed discussion about the forthcoming Green Point event. Alistair Gidman has volunteered to help. Sandra Claridge (supported by all) was emphatic on the subject of the failure of members to offer to help. Keith says that the GP event is pretty well organized. Expects approximately 30 tables. Hopes to borrow 10 tables from Wantage, 10 from Wallingford and 8 from Thame. **Can officers from those clubs please organize the transport of these tables and the return?**

Members are urged to offer any help they can in the future.

In general Keith reported that one task he has found extremely cumbersome and would very much like help with is the collection of the trophies in time for the AGM and re-presentation. **IS THERE ANYONE WILLING THE UNDERTAKE THIS TASK?** Please email Keith.

3. Membership Secretary

Sandra Claridge reported that there are 753 OBA members (Jean had reported 705 in January). There are

however, 137 not yet renewed. She will write to the individuals in due course to encourage them to renew. Has to be recognized that some for some of these Oxfordshire is their second county. Most of Blewbury Club members have dual membership. It is these secondary memberships that are hard to collect. The EBU are planning a new initiative whereby membership fees paid by direct debit will be discounted.

Camrose

This will be at no cost to county. She will need helpers to be hand recorders: 5 per session. Basically 3 sets of 5 people. Also help with transport – collecting players from airports. Will be held 5-7 January at the Four Spires Hotel, Abingdon Road, Oxford. Please email Sandra if you can help at all. Claridge31@tiscali.co.uk

4. **EBU Shareholders**

Sandra reported that the outgoing Chairman is no standing. There are likely to be 2 candidates: John Neville and Philips Mason. Sadly, not enough time to get a mandate for who the delegates should vote for. There had been a meeting in April which had been very tricky. The board admitted eventually to having not been honest with Shareholders. The new Director Barry Capal is doing very well and has good courageous plans.

5. **Publicity officer**

Brenda reported that the English Bridge magazine had made a mess of the copy she had sent in for the county news. She had taken this up with them. It was agreed at the meeting that in future we would limit the advertising of our Green Point events and Congresses to 1 which should appear in the magazine in the issue before the relevant event.

6. **Match Secretary**

Nick was not present but had asked the subject of how many pairs/teams playing for the county at invitational events from other counties should be subsidized by the county. It was agreed (referring back to the paper produced by Alan Wilson when Treasurer) that this should be limited to 1 pair/team per event.

7. **Chief Tournament Director**

Raised the question of how many EBU Directors should be present at the GP event. Agreed that if there are under 40 tables then Stephen should be the only one. If more, then we should ask for one more.

8. **Chester and President's Cup Secretary**

Geoff Nicholas reported that there were 11 entries for the Presidents Cup and 8 for the Chester Cup

4. **Sub Committee:**

County Pairs. A heat would be held on 14 November. Efforts will be made to make sure that the two semi finals are well balanced. When the event is run each qualifying pair need to say which semi dates (if any) they are unable to play. Secretaries of Clubs need to be informed.

Simultaneous Pairs. After considerable discussion it was decided to leave the competition as it was whilst recognizing that it was not perfect. Wallingford was asked to ensure that it would not turn away potential participants of the right standing. And the Alternative Club was to be asked to open its doors to county members wishing to play provided sufficient notice was given.

President's Cup: A Plate would be introduced to run in Parallel to the Cup for Regional Masters and below. £12 fee for entry to the plate.

Chester Cup: Only decision was that all matches must be agreed by end of September.

5. **ProAm**

Date set for 19 November. Pros are begged to be prepared to play to make it a success. Will be held at Roke not Benson as in the brochure.

6. **Bridgemate**

Stephen led the discussion. Basically Bridgemate is a little battery operated computer which is connected by wireless to the main computer and on which scores can be recorded and a running score is then available throughout the evening. OBC intends to purchase it for their own purposes. The issue was whether the county wanted to chip in and benefit from the use for Tuesday nights and County events at a cost for the county of £1100. (Total cost for 20 units approximately 3400 and County use about 1/3 to 2/3 OBC). Long and heated discussion took place but a vote was taken and the majority were in favour of the purchase. It was appreciated that all county

players participating in county benefits will benefit. It was also pointed out that the main source of income for the county came from the Tuesday night duplicate.

7. Level of play – Wessex League

It had been suggested that the rules of play in the Wessex should be changed to bring the competition into line with the EBU rules. This would mean that all divisions would play at Level 4. There was discussion and it was suggested that level 4 was too high for the lower divisions. It was decided to make no change to the rules. Lower division play Level 3 conventions, Higher divisions Level 4.

8. AOB

There was a request for clarification of the various costs involved in the production of sets of duplimated Boards. Stephen promised to provide this to those clubs requesting it and also to provide it to the Committee. He will bring the machine to the next meeting so all can understand how it works. There was a request as to whether on the printed sheets of the hands there could be a display of what possible contracts could be made. Stephen promised to look into this.