

**OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**13 September 2007**

**1. Present**

Stephen Brown	Chief Tournament Director
Mary-Ann Sheehy	Secretary
Lynne Hayes	Treasurer
Geoff Nicholas	League Secretary
Brenda Harris	Publicity Officer
Clive Keep	Abingdon
Peggy Manuell	Oxford
Kathy Talbot	Oxford
Richard Sills	Oxford
Peter Baxter	Wallingford
Dave Marsh	Witney
Sandra Nicholson	Summertown
Alan Grunwald	Wantage

2. There being no Chairman, Stephen Brown agreed to take the Chair for the meeting.

3. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to minor alterations.

**4. Matters arising**

Lynne Hayes promised to write the paper on the subject of fees for Tournament Directors to be discussed at the next meeting. She would also set up the Finance sub-committee which had been proposed.

Brenda raised the fact that the Prospectus does not reflect the decision made at a Management Committee Meeting to the effect that the Newcomers/Times Cup type competitions are for genuine novices who have only taken up the game in the last five years and have not won more the 2500 Master points. Stephen promised to change the prospectus for next year and to arrange for the information to be in the website.

Keith Sadler had sent in a report on progress for the GP event on 29 September. He had put all the arrangements in place and only hoped that more entries would arrive. Lynne raised the fact that the bill for the use of the hall at Benson showed a 100% rise in price. This would make it very difficult to make a profit on future events.

The issue on the date for the next Congress which Geoff Nicholas had been

asked to arrange was raised. It was proposed that Stephen Brown and Keith Sadler should coordinate re the next congress. The dating of events had pushed the Congress to an inconvenient date and it was hoped that with some negotiations the date of 28/29 June could be reinstated.

## 5. Officers Reports

Before starting the Officers Reports Stephen thanked Sandra Claridge for all the work she had done as Membership Secretary, Malcolm Simpson for his excellent first Newsletter which had gone out with the Prospectus, Geoff Nicholas for the massive amount of work he has done as League Secretary, and Mary-Ann Sheehy for her work as Secretary and of course Brenda Harris for all her magnificent publicity work. He apologised for the errors in the Prospectus but in mitigation explained that he had spent an inordinate amount of time on bringing the Masterpoints up to date. These had now been dealt with up to end June 2007. There were still one or two issues: no Masterpoints yet adduced for the Seniors Competition. As are as the Prospectus is concerned he proposes to correct the on-line version. Any errors should be emailed to Mary-Ann Sheehy on [ma.sheehy@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:ma.sheehy@dsl.pipex.com).

There are several posts still outstanding:

Chairman **please** help us fill this post.

Masterpoint Secretary Sandra Claridge felt that she could not manage this post after all

Tournament Secretary Bill McCarthy had assisted Rita Todd in publicising and keeping the results etc. in the County events. A replacement for that job would be very welcome.

County Pairs We need a coordinator for the County Pairs competition. (Clive Keep volunteered at the meeting)

### 6. a. Treasurer

Lynne presented her report. The Bank Balance standing at 1/09/2007 is £16979.72. The Congress had made a profit of £604.19. Lynne reported that she had now collected all the county trophies. The question of insurance and whether we should have it had been raised. Before asking the management committee to decide to commit the large sum Krys Kazmierczek would be asked to check with the EBU as to whether any deal on insurance was available via them.

### b. Secretary

Mary-Ann Sheehy first read out a letter from Keith Sadler who thanked the OBA for his parting gift and then she reported that the only correspondence she received was phone calls from people seeking their masterpoints. She had been to a meeting with Brenda at the EBU to discuss the proposals regarding universal membership. The upshot is described below.

### c. Chief Tournament Director

Reported that some Dawes League dates had forced a change in the Calendar. As a result the Mixed Pairs event would not take place until after the AGM. These things happen. Sandra Claridge had sent out all the Brochures but it was possible that some members of two or more counties may have missed out.

d. Membership Secretary

Maxine Henry had sent in a written report: 711 paid up members (including B for A and juniors); 188 unpaid; lapsed since April 07: 8 and lapsed previous years: 389.

e. Publicity

Brenda Harris thanked Malcolm Simpson for his hard work on the Newsletter; Sandra Nicholson for copy-editing and re-formatting the Newsletter; Nick Smith for reproducing the Newsletter at an amazingly low cost of £21 for 700 copies. Regarding the Oxfordshire column in English Bridge Brenda reported that her copy had been restricted to 280 words only. This meant that inevitably some results will be omitted in the future and these she hoped would go into the Newsletter. She was negotiating with the EBU to arrange for the Newsletter to be distributed to members with English Bridge. If the price was right this would start in the December issue. The EBU had promised a 'modest' fee. We await to hear what that means. It was agreed amongst those present that the Newsletter was excellent. Brenda was asked to ensure that a copy of it was posted on the website and that a deadline for items to be included in the next issue also be posted on the website.

f. League Secretary

President's cup had 12 entries (one up from last year)

Chester Cup had 6 (same as last year)

Wessex League had 40 (same)

Up to date with Master points.

## 7. EBU Strategy

Various points had been raised at the MDAG meeting at the EBU which Mary-Ann Sheehy and Brenda Harris had attended: There had been great hostility from the Chairman of the Solihull club. The reasons cited were: many players not interested in masterpoints, English Bridge or anything else that the EBU offers. Many of their sessions not master pointed. Would disaffiliate. They called for universal membership at a reduced rate of £10 and that English Bridge be taken out of equation and be paid for by subscription. The rest of the meeting had not been so negative and mainly wanted clarification. Brenda Harris had felt that the pay to play levy of (say) 30p would impose as much as £45 on people who played frequently which she felt was unfair; also that newcomers would be discouraged from playing if they were asked to pay this levy. It was pointed out that most newcomer sessions do not award masterpoints and therefore would not come in to the p2p category.

At OBA meeting questions were raised over the scoring and rating systems proposed, the software and compatibility with existing systems issues;

masterpoints; club levies and whether these would vary according to sessions or what; vat; clearly the question of disaffiliation by some clubs would be of critical importance. Many present were concerned that the EBU whilst claiming the plan proposed was negative revenue-wise (i.e. no more or less than they are receiving already) that this was not their real intention and were concerned that if they did indeed manage to raise more money they would be able to use the increase wisely. At the end of this discussion it was proposed that the question as to how the clubs should be consulted in order that the EBU delegates be informed of the feeling of the county should be discussed at the next OBA meeting. It may be that we hold a special meeting with the clubs to which John Carter (EBU committee member) would be invited to attend.

#### 8. New Competition in honour of Brian Claridge

A new competition with a Cup provided by The Menagerie had been proposed. Mike Robinson had made the proposal to provide a trophy "The Brian Claridge Cup" (or shield) to be awarded at the end of the county match season for the best played hand by an Oxfordshire player in a county match - open to all three teams, the Tolle but not Garden Cities/ invitation events etc..† The proposal was that the selection committee + Sandra would decide on the award. This year (i.e. from April 2007) would be the first year of the award. The question of insurance (whether county or Menagerie or winner) was raised. Mary-Ann Sheehy was asked to write to Mike Robinson for clarification. But in principle the proposal was approved.

#### 9. 2008 Congress and or Green Pointed Event 2008

It is only possible to have 2 Green pointed Events a year:

The options for Oxfordshire are as follows:

1. Stay as we are: blackpointed event followed but Green pointed event over one weekend with a separate Green pointed event later on in the year. The arguments in favour are that this has now become established and gives those who are perhaps intimidated by the GP events to participate in the Blackpointed Championship Pairs and Sandra Landy cup on the Saturday of the Congress. This is costly as it is not well attended and the rent for hire of room has doubled.
2. Scrap the blackpointed event and move the September Green Pointed event to the Saturday of the Congress.
3. Scrap the blackpointed event and have two separate GP events: one in June and one in September.

Delegates are asked to please refer back to their clubs and try and get a sense of what is desired.

#### 10. AOB

Two Oxfordshire members had asked to go on the County Tournament Directors course. This was welcomed. After discussion the meeting agreed that the County should pay for these and in return those doing the course be asked (when

qualified) to direct one of the Sunday events for free.

Bridgmate: still not used sufficiently on Tuesdays. This is apparently due to insufficient training and if trained the need to utilise that training immediately before the newly acquired knowledge vanishes. Stephen Brown is very happy to train people and asks for a proposal to be put to him. He points out that the training session really needs to be longer than just half an hour before a bridge session.

Kathy Talbot asked about curtain cards. These are available on request to Pauline Brown (at a cost).

#### 11. Accounts

Lynne Hayes presented the 2006-7 accounts duly audited by Peter Stevenson. These were adopted by the meeting. It was agreed that Lynne should give Peter Stevenson some remuneration (in the form of a bottle). It was proposed and agreed that Peter Stevenson be appointed auditor for next year and Rob Proctor for the following year.

Stephen Brown then thanked everyone for attending and participating in a very good meeting.

Date of next meeting: 26 November 2007