

AGM June 2024

Chair's report

The OBA has had a good year. Whilst there have been some casualties in competitions, others are growing. Our congress returned to face-to-face and was enjoyed by many. We are hoping for larger numbers this coming August year at our new venue. The County Pairs was a huge success and for the first time we were able to run a President's Plate. Two Café Bridge events raised money for charity and another is planned for September.

I must thank our hard-working committee. Stephen Brown continues to give valuable support and has combined the role of Secretary and Treasurer, keeping me in order and producing a superb set of accounts. Thank you to the Wessex team: Sandra Nicholson, Dave Tarsky and Peter Litchfield, who ensure the smooth running of the event; and to Sandra Claridge for continuing to run the President's Cup and Plate.

Thanks again to our officers in their roles: Patricia as TD, Joan as Youth Coordinator. Our shareholders give their time to attend the EBU meetings. Matthew Covill and Alan Wilson run the selection committee. And many committee members continue to support OBA activities.

Thank you to Robert Procter, who is running a forward-thinking Promotions team and I'm hoping that some of these initiatives will come to fruition in the near future.

We are currently in the process of forming a policy on Grants and Awards, aiming to use any surplus we make for the promotion of the game

We all need to look out for the future of the game. Spread the word to friends and colleagues about free taster sessions in clubs. The most effective form of marketing has traditionally been word of mouth.

Kathy Talbot