

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Oxford Bridge Club CIO
Registered Charity 1155820

Conduct Committee Annual Report 2016

1. Scope

This report is based on review and discussion at a meeting held at the Oxford Bridge Club on March 16th 2016 attended by all members of the Conduct Committee

2. Review of Complaints

Between April 2015 and March 2016 the Conduct Committee were referred five complaints for investigation. These related to morning and evening sessions. One complaint was later withdrawn and another not upheld by the Committee. The remaining complaints had been investigated and resolved according to the Terms of Reference of the Conduct Committee.

3. Directors' Guidance

The Conduct Committee gave its support to the draft of the Directors' Guidance. The members agreed the importance of communication of the guidance to all of the club's directors and supported the recommendation that there should be an opportunity for directors to meet to discuss ways to achieve consistency. The objective of this would be to ensure the standard of best behaviour is applied consistently across every session.

4 Liaison between the Directors and Conduct Committee

Elements of the ACBL zero tolerance process were discussed, including a form for the use of a Director when a behaviour violation had occurred during a session. It was proposed that this be discussed by TDs and other relevant parties. Such a process could be integrated with the records kept by the Conduct Committee. Sue Smith volunteered to liaise with the Chief TD. Peter Sherry also kindly offered assistance.

4. Future meetings

It was agreed that one meeting per year was appropriate. In addition, extra-ordinary meetings could be arranged on an *ad hoc* basis.

Denis Talbot
Chairman, Oxford Bridge Club CIO Conduct Committee

Report of the Education Committee for the AGM 2016

This year, Oxford Bridge Learning decided to stop providing the high quality bridge teaching that they had provided for the previous seven years.

It was decided OBC would continue bridge education and Vicky Fleming was appointed Education Manager. Oxford Bridge School was born. Vicky has quickly recruited an enthusiastic team as well as retaining some of OBL's highly valued teachers. They have developed a programme for both beginners and more experienced players.

Monday evening and Thursday morning sessions continue renamed Learn and Play.

Gentle Duplicate sessions are proposed for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evenings. Criteria for attendance have been agreed.

Two Beginners course will start in the first week of October 16, one evening course and one daytime course.

Two courses on Aspects of Play were successfully held.

A Seminar series has been successfully running on Saturday mornings.

Evening Classes will be held on a Monday.

The Trustees have agreed that education is vital to the club's future and that it takes priority over other activities. It remains important that the club is seen as welcoming to the new players and that Best Behaviour At Bridge is rigorously followed.

Matt Wilkinson

Chief Tournament Director's Report 2015-2016

The focus this year has been on scoring and on Best behaviour at Bridge:

- changing the scoring system from Scorebridge to EBUScore.

This has meant adoption of the software, with initial training of the Chief Scorer and Chief TD before training of the team of scorers. It has necessitated organization of the movements in the new system and some rewriting of movements since the club uses many nonstandard movements for sessions where 18 to 21 boards are played. The migration to the new system is nearing completion: the new software will be used in all sessions from 01 August 2016.

- A high priority of the club is to ensure enjoyable bridge is played at all sessions. To this end, we are adopting a zero tolerance policy on breaches of Best behaviour at Bridge. Policy documents are undergoing development so as to ensure consistency of approach among directors.

Kathy Talbot, May 2016

Report of the Membership and Communication Committee 2015-16

Current number of members 333

Number joined in last year 23 (47, 19, 34 in previous years)

Number who have left in the last year 25 (32 in 2015)

Follow agreement with the Trustees and consultation with the Full Daytime Members, it was agreed to propose to end the Full Daytime Membership category at the AGM. The Full Daytime Members who responded to the consultation were supportive of the change. There were no objections.

A monthly newsletter is produced by the club chairman and emailed to all members. A paper copy is put on the club notice board for members with no email.

We have current email addresses for 313/333 members of the club.

The website has been under the care of Pam Eyton until her recent resignation. It is recognized that this is the first place that members, visitors and potential new members look for information about the club. We will endeavor to continue her work and are looking for a new website manager.

Matt Wilkinson

OBC CIO Operations Committee summary for 2015/2016

The Operations Committee met four times during the 2015/2016 year. During the year, the committee updated the CIO's health and safety policy, completed a health and safety risk assessment and updated the CIO's emergency evacuation plan. It also arranged the annual inspection of the fire extinguishers and the biannual inspection of the fire and smoke alarm systems by competent bodies. Appropriate weekly checks of the fire extinguishers, fire and smoke alarms were also made. Before the AGM, four evacuation exercises will have been completed. All portable electrical items were subject to a PAT during the year.

The Committee has ensured that the CIO's day-to-day bridge activities are facilitated by ensuring that the premises are adequately cleaned, that the furniture and fixtures and fittings are in good order and repaired where necessary, and that refuse is disposed of in a sustainable manner. Provision of regular additional cleaning has been recently arranged to ensure the premises remain an attractive location in which to play bridge.

During the year, there have been a number of instances where the premises have been left insecure over night. The Committee has logged these occurrences, which are a concern, and suggested a number of process changes to help to eradicate them.

Martin Illingworth
31st May 2016

Premises Committee report 2015-2016

The main achievement in the last 12 months has been of obtaining approval in principle for a 395K loan from the Charity Bank.

The remaining achievements were well summed up in the newsletter sent out on 4 May. So as soon as we have received the agreement from the second flat owner regarding the car parking space we will be able to sit down with the builder and architect and agree hopefully a project within our budget.

We hope to do that in the next few months with the aim of getting a builder on site next spring with April as the suggested starting date. However until these variables have been firmed up no date can be certain.

Howard Arnes

TEAMS COMMITTEE REPORT 2015-2016

It is no use pretending it has been a particularly successful season (at least, bridge-wise) for OBC. The A team finished second in Division 1, and the G team fifth in Division 5, but all other teams finished in the bottom two positions and were relegated. At the start of the year we had almost an entire team drop out, which meant we were short players. Worse, the players who dropped out played mostly in first-division teams last year. So we had a choice: either scratch one of the first-division teams, or put everyone in a division which might have been ambitious. We chose the latter, knowing that it may not bring the best results, but hoping that the experience gained would be of value. It is unfortunate that teams did not win as much as in previous years, but as I said, hopefully the bridge played was a chance for all involved to learn.

The fact that most teams will now be starting in a lower division next year does, however, bring an opportunity for more winning next season. With that in mind we'll be continuing a program of summer training and will be looking to start thinking about teams and partnerships in the near future, to give players as much chance as possible to develop partnerships and their own ability. The Teams Committee met in early May to discuss the season and what will work best going forwards. Although we have a plan, please do pass along your comments about this as they are very useful in shaping the following season.

Notable thanks go to the Wessex League captains: Kathy Talbot (A), Hugo Huggett (B), Dave Dobson (C), Claire MacDonagh (D), Pat Lewis (E), Joan Bailes (F), and Graham Wolcroft (G). It is considerable work to organise a team, find match dates, arrange substitutions and collate results; one wonders how cardplay can be thought about during the evening. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

Lastly I'd like to announce what I have said to some already, that this will be my last year as Club Captain. I understand that Kathy Talbot will be taking over the job in the interrim prior to the vote at the AGM. Thanks all for the support you've given in the two years I have been in the role.

If anybody has any questions regarding this report, feel free to contact me.

JAMES W. J. ANDERSON