

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Conduct Committee Annual Report 2024

1. Scope

This report is based on the activities of the Conduct Committee in the last year and following review and discussion at the Conduct Committee meeting held via Zoom on Monday 17th June 2024.

2. Review of Complaints

There were no formal complaints referred to the Committee in the past year. There had been several incidents which might have resulted in a referral but in each case the matter was dealt with informally and no further action was required.

3. Terms of Reference

No changes have been made to the terms of reference except to update the membership of the Committee.

4. Conduct Committee

Paul Watson (chair), Mary Bennett, Martin Illingworth, Graham Walcroft, Steph Bliss, Ursula Bowler, Victor Rae-Reeves, Holly Kilpatrick (safeguarding only).

5. Panel Members

Emily Middleton, Sue Smith, Jan Evans, John Deech, Erica Sheppard, John Lewis-Crosby, Ruth Kim

6. OBC Strategic Plan and Best Behaviour at Bridge

Members of the Conduct Committee have published short articles in the recent club newsletter. One concerned hesitations during bidding and the other concerned criticism of one's partner or opponents, whether during a face to face or online session. Both of these articles were produced following incidents which did not lead to formal disciplinary action, but the committee were keen to disseminate guidance in the hope of preventing further incidents.

7. Change to Disciplinary Procedures

The club Chairman asked the Conduct Committee to review the current disciplinary procedures. The aim was to make the procedures simpler to use and to understand. The Committee has now completed this work and a final version has been produced. In order to introduce these changes, it has been necessary to propose a change to Schedule A of the club's Articles of Association. Such a change requires a vote by the members at a General Meeting, so this proposal will be put to the members at the next AGM. The Conduct Officer has also produced a simplified summary of the disciplinary procedures. These do not form an official part of the disciplinary procedures

but are intended to help members to understand how the disciplinary procedures work in practice.

8. Future Meetings

The Conduct Committee will meet annually and also as required. An annual report will be prepared for the AGM each year.

Paul Watson 17th June 2024