

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Annual General Meeting, 10th July 2024 at 6.00 pm
At 147, Banbury Road

Minutes

Attendees: Julie Anderson (JA) Chair, Ruth Kim (RK) Minutes, Ursula Bowler (UB), Peter Schroeder (PS), Liza Furnival (LF), Paul Watson (PW), Juliette Riehl (JR), Chris Bone (CB), Brian Mills (BM) and thirty two members of the club.

1. Welcome to the OBC CIO AGM

The chair welcomed and thanked those attending.

2. Apologies

Eight apologies had been received.

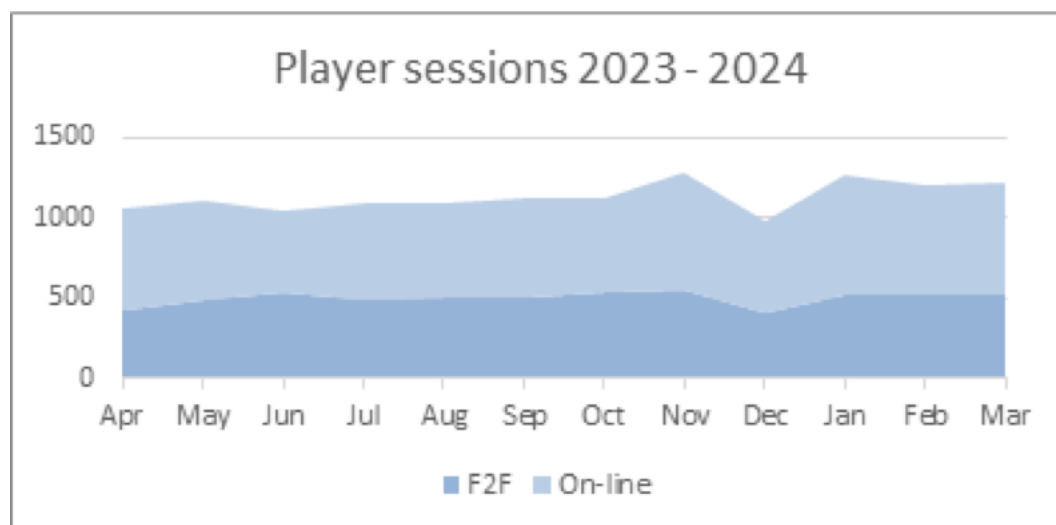
3. Minutes of the last AGM 19th July 2023

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as accurate, these were signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair highlighted aspects of her written report which had been circulated to the membership.

The past year has seen the club continue to provide a range of bridge playing opportunities to its members with a mixture of face to face bridge on the club premises and on line via Realbridge. The numbers playing online are larger than those playing face to face and have increased in the past year. The numbers playing face to face have plateaued and numbers in all events overall are down 30% on pre-covid times. The Chair thanked John Deech for his generous sponsorship of face to face events on 4th Wednesday evenings and everyone who has acted as host.



The Chair thanked the education team, led by UB, who have had a very successful year with good recruitment into the Bridge for All year 1 and 2 programmes and recruiting new teachers to support the educational sessions and seminars. She also thanked Ian and Christine Bishop for all their hard work and commitment especially during the period when they were running most of the BfA classes on their own. The Saturday drop-in social bridge session has attracted those who seek a very relaxed game without any competitive scoring (and tea and cake are provided)

There is excellent participation in the Wessex League, the inter-club competition, across the divisions. 30 members played in the daytime league, 80 in the evening league and the Oxford A team won overall in the top division. All these matches are now played online on Real Bridge. The club has also catered for several well attended social events but the club requires someone to fill the position of Social Secretary to co-ordinate the band of willing helpers providing refreshments.

The player numbers and the education programme which brings new members into the club mean the club finances are healthy. The club receives some additional income from the chess club using our premises. The Chair thanked PS for all his hard work on organising the club finances so efficiently.

Trustee Board

The Trustee Board oversees the OBC as a Charitable Institution and the functions of the club and meets 4 times per year. 8 members are trustees by virtue of the offices held (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Secretary, Education Secretary, Premises Officer, Communications Officer, Conduct Officer -all elected/re-elected annually at the AGM) and there are 4 directly elected trustees without any particular responsibilities other than those of a trustee, who stand down after 4 years. There are vacancies for a replacement Premises Officer and 2 directly elected trustees this year for which nominations have been invited. There are also vacancies for a replacement House Officer (to organise cleaning and supplies at the club) and Social Secretary to coordinate social events at the club. The Chair thanked her fellow trustees for their commitment and diligence in ensuring the club runs smoothly. In addition, thanks and appreciation go to many others who contribute in myriad ways to support the club. A warm welcome was also extended to Brian Mills who was co-opted to the Board as Communications Officer.


Finally, the Chair congratulated all those who have won in the club's various competitions over the past year and all those who continue to improve or simply just enjoy their game.

5. Annual report and accounts for year ended 31st March 2024

PS presented the accounts (the full reports can be reviewed on the OBC website).

The OBC finances are satisfactory and are summarised here.

		2023-24	2022-23
Income	Bridge	£47,228	£45,890
	Education	£36,241	£23,989
	Other	£17,476	£13,822
Expenditure	Bridge	-£12,821	-£11,556
	Education	-£16,763	-£14,416
	Other (inc. mortgage)	-£47,361	-£38,834
Net Surplus		£24,000	£18,895




Income from education has seen a significant rise and other income was also up, partly helped by room hire. Education expenditure was higher due to training more teachers but UB had reduced administrative costs compared with previous years so it was still a good net gain and PS thanked UB for all her hard work and cost control. The most significant increased cost was the higher interest on mortgage payments, 30% higher than in 2021-22, though these payments would have been higher still if £20000 capital had not been paid off in 2023-24. It is hoped the mortgage payments will reduce further this year if the expected reduction in bank interest rates materialises.

The mortgage position is summarised below

OBC Mortgage

- Remaining capital £292k
 - £405k taken out in April 2018
 - £20k extra capital payments made in 2023-24 year
- Current payments £2,668 pcm (down £130pcm)
 - Used for 2024-25 Budget
- Overall 2024-25 Budget predicts small surplus
 - Apr-Jun 2024 already exceeds budget by over £4k
- Over £30k in our accounts



6. Report of Independent Examiner

Peter Stevenson was unable to attend the meeting but had confirmed that he had audited and approved the accounts and wished to convey his thanks to PS for their high standard and presentation. JA thanked Peter Stevenson for his service to the club.

7. Election of Trustees and Officers

JA announced that all the ex officio Trustees had offered to continue in post, apart from CB (OBC Premises Officer) who is stepping down once a replacement can be found. Brian Mills had been co-opted by the Trustees during the year to the position of Communications Officer. The membership voted overwhelmingly for the appointment of the nominated Trustees.

John Briggs and Juliette Riehl continue as directly elected Trustees. There is a vacancy for two further directly elected Trustees.

The following were nominated for officers of the club: Martin Illingworth (Chief Tournament Director) and Matthew Wilkinson (Membership secretary). The membership voted and the appointment of the nominated officers was approved unanimously. The position of Social Secretary remains vacant.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2024-2025

Peter Stevenson has kindly agreed to be the Independent Examiner for 2024-2025. The membership approved this appointment.

9. Nomination to the Oxfordshire Bridge Association Selection Committee

Denis Talbot had kindly volunteered to continue in the role as representative of OBC on this committee which deals with selection of County players and teams. The meeting approved his appointment.

10. Update of Articles of Association

The trustees proposed that the disciplinary procedures of the club be simplified and this was explained by PW (Conduct Officer) and this required an amendment to the Articles of Association as these procedures are laid out in Schedule A to the Articles. The full wording of the proposed new Schedule A had been circulated to all members together with a summary. A question was raised as to whether the changes were in line with EBU policy and it was pointed out that many other clubs have amended the model EBU procedures, which are cumbersome. The meeting agreed to adopt the new procedures and to the rewording of Schedule A of the Articles.

11. Competition winners and award of cups

RK announced the winners of the competitions for the year and the cups were awarded followed by a group photo.

Beck Salver Championship Pairs	Kathy Talbot & Denis Talbot
Rose Bowl Championship Teams	Peter Finbow, Liza Furnival, Peter Randall & Lorna Swadling
Eve Stockwell Bowl Swiss Teams	Cyril Berkeley, Ron Gould, Irene Holland & Peter Schroeder
Winnie Ling Mixed Pairs	Jackie Fairclough & Graham Orsmond
Thomson Trophy Individual	Phil Chaundy
Morrie Marsh Novice Pairs	Graham Bray & Philip O'Neill
Meltzer Trophy Rubber Bridge Knock-Out	Amr El-Kashef & Martin Illingworth
John Simpson Trophy Men's Pairs	Graham Orsmond & Denis Talbot
Doreen Simpson Trophy Ladies' Pairs	Clare Saunders & Jane Whelan
John Deech Challenge Trophy	Kathy Talbot
John Deech Runner-up (cash prize)	Joint: Amr El-Kashef, Martin Illingworth, Emily Middleton & Denis Talbot
John Deech Top player with NGS of under 9 (cash prize)	Joint: Vicky Fleming & Anne Laming

Roger Hughes Trophy Most Improved Player	
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	<p>Ruth Stockford (whose NGS ranking increased by 4.6% in the year ending March 2024)</p> <p>with an honorable mention to</p> <p>Sandra Devaney (whose NGS ranking increased by 2.3% over the same period)</p>
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Ladder winners 2023-2024

Monday Morning	Martin Illingworth
Tuesday Morning a <u>pairs</u> ladder	Diana Cannon & Richard Sills
Wednesday Gentle Duplicate	Sally Ruse
Wednesday Evening Pairs Low Braham Trophy	Graham Orsmond
Wednesday Evening Teams	Ron Gould
Thursday 9-High Pairs	Sheila Parry
Friday Morning	Kathy Talbot
Friday Evening Teams	Joint: Robert Gasser & Martin Illingworth

12. AOB

Richard Sills gave a brief report of the club's success in the Wessex league. The day time league is particularly well supported but the 7th Team in the evening league needs more players and he requested any volunteers to contact him, as this team may have to be withdrawn otherwise.

There were no other items for discussion.

Richard Sills proposed a vote of thanks to all the trustees and the meeting closed at 18:45.