

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

**Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 16th April 2007,
7.30pm at 6 Champs Close, Peachcroft, Abingdon**

Present: Gordon Carroll (GC) (Chair), Clive Keep (CK) (Secretary), Jean Moore (JM), Brian Moore (BM) Valerie Welch (VM), Karen Hughes (KH) and David Walton (DW).

1. Apologies for Absence: Chris Lloyd (CL)

2. Minutes of 5th February 2007

The minutes for 5th February were agreed and signed by GC.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

All actions arising from the minutes had been carried out, with the exception of item 4 (contacting former members), - CK to attempt to contact David Irwin.

Action: **CK**

4. Revised Club Constitution

GC signed the revised club constitution, as ratified at the Club AGM.

5. Collection of Annual Subscriptions

GC to announce that Club Subscriptions are now due.

Action: **GC**

6. Cancellation of Home Wessex League Matches

Bicester B had cancelled at very short notice. The Abingdon Club was initially invoiced for the room and refreshments, but this had subsequently been revised to room only. Should we approach Bicester for part payment? It was agreed that GC would discuss the issue with Geoff Nicholas and if appropriate raise the issue at the next OBA management meeting.

Action: **GC**

7. Discussion of policy for gifts for leaving/ill members

After a lot of discussion it was agreed that the Club would neither buy gifts for anyone who is leaving the club, nor anyone who is unwell. Just an appropriate card would be purchased. If, however, any Club member wanted to make either a collection at the club or a private donation, then that would be outside the Club Committee's jurisdiction. CK to formally document this Policy decision.

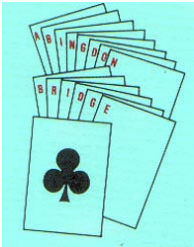
Action: **CK**

8. OBA meeting on 26th March 2007

CK had attended the OBA meeting on 26th March and circulated his summary prior to the meeting. This note is reproduced below:-

There were only 9 attendees... Stephen Brown chaired the meeting in the absence of Keith Sadler.

- Stephen Brown said hardly anyone had come forward for 'bridge mate' training – he suggested a date of 21st April – to be confirmed
- There was some discussion about the increase of fees for the coming season – Lyn Hayes had distributed a note. It was agreed that Stephen Brown would try and spread out events more in the calendar where possible. It was agreed that:-
(a) Wessex league would stay the same at £10 per team (b) the Men's, Ladies pairs, Harwell cup etc. should go up from £13 to £15 per pair, but the meeting felt that the cost of the Oxford Times Cup should go down to £12 per pair. (c) the cost of the County Pairs Semi and final should go up from £5 per pair to £6 per pair, (d) County match costs to go up to £12 per pair (e) Seniors pairs to go up to £15 per pair (made a £275 loss last year). (f) The county cannot increase the fees for the Oxford Green Point events as they have already been fixed and documented in the current OBA prospectus at £20.



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- The Secretary reported on a recent EBU delegates meeting – the main concern is the declining membership. It was agreed that an OBA Newsletter would be a good idea – Malcolm Simpson has subsequently agreed to do it.
- The Publicity Officer reported that the OBA green point event would be in June this year. This and the OBA Congress would be held at Benson. Eleanor Jeronimidies will be the new editor of English Bridge (ex 'Mr Bridge'). There will be a new EBU tournament – the winners of each county league will play winners from others. John Williams is retiring as OBA county captain. Chris Cooper is being proposed as his replacement.
- The Tournament Secretary reported that the President's Cup final will be between Smith and Southcome (on 21/4/07). Bicester B had withdrawn from the Wessex League. There had been some delays in the Chester Cup programme
- The Secretary read out the Chairman's report. Should we pay playing Directors for weekend dates? It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. The number of pairs playing on County nights is dropping... teams nights are OK. It was agreed that the county would run a 'Butler pairs' night once a month.
- Stephen Brown gave a demonstration of the OBA's Duplimate machine.
- There was some suggestion under AOB that maybe OBA meetings could occasionally be before bridge on a Tuesday at Oxford... I said that the Abingdon delegates might find that difficult. Subsequent to the meeting Geoff Nicholas has suggested that we make more of email prior to meetings... say by emailing officer's reports and therefore saving time. I agreed with this.

9. Discussion on Club calendar

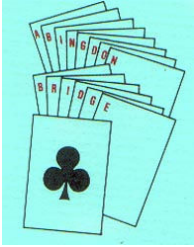
CK had circulated a draft copy of the calendar prior to the meeting. There were a few things that needed to be discussed. The following were agreed-

- Level four conventions would be permitted at all club evenings.
- Butler pair's evenings would be run twice a year as an experiment. CK to explain the scoring method to members. Action: **CK**
- If the OBA SIMS event this year did not attract more than eight complete tables, then the event would not be played at the club next year.
- VW to complete membership list to be included on the calendar and forward to CK. It was agreed that if membership had lapsed for a whole year they would be removed from the calendar. Action: **VW**
- A draft List of members to be included in the calendar would be put on the Club noticeboard by 16th May (for members to check) and CK to produce the calendar in time for 5th June. Action: **CK, VW**

10. Allocation of Tasks for Year

CK had produced a note on what tasks were allocated last year. The following were agreed:- (members responsible in brackets):

- Collection/engraving of trophies in Jan/Feb 2008 (J&BM). VW to check of Jo Murray's membership Action: **VW**
- Liaison with Guild Hall (GC)
- Club scorers (GS, with DW in reserve)
- Checking of stationary for club nights (DW, JM)
- Club website (CK)
- Scoring of Club competitions (DW, CK for handicaps)
- Membership Secretary (VW)
- Club Hosts (J & BM)



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- Club representatives at OBA meetings (GC, VW, CK)
- Laws and Ethics Committee (CK, MPS, JC)
- Wessex League Selection Committee (GC, GS, CK)
- Len Salmon Trophy (GC, with KH & VW to organise food)
- Director's rota (DW)
- Duplimate boards (DW)
- Club Wessex League Selection Committee to meet in the summer (CK, GC, GS)
- We would enter three teams in the Wessex League by the end of July (CK)
- Clearing up (all) – GC to announce at the Club and move waste bin nearer to the drinks table

11. AOB.

(a) CK had calculated the club handicaps and GS had checked them. The handicap for Jan Van Maanen and Frances Pollit was agreed to be 5. All proposed Handiaps were ratified by the Committee. It was agreed that the club policy on handicap calculation would be that in order to have a handicap calculated that member must have played at the Club for at least 12 times before the 1st January of the competition year. It was agreed that members can enter the Open Pairs competition at any time during the competition year. CK to document this policy.

Action: **CK**

(b) It as noted that there are only four members of the club that are not members of the EBU/OBA.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.