

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 17th September 2007, 7.30pm at 32 Picklers Hill Abingdon, OX14 2BA

Present: Gordon Carroll (GC) (Chair), Clive Keep (CK) (Secretary), Jean Moore (JM), Brian Moore (BM), Graham Simpson (GS), Chris Lloyd (CL) and David Walton (DW).

1. Apologies for Absence: Valerie Welch (VW)

2. Minutes of 16th April 2007

The minutes for 16th April 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 had not been able to contact David Irwin.

4. Club Correspondence

CK described the correspondence he had received since the last meeting – as follows:

- Holiday brochures from 'Accolade Holidays'
- Annual Club information request from the EBU
- Membership application from Evan Harris, MP - £5 received
- Wessex League details from Geoff Nicholas
- An email about Junior bridge in Oxfordshire for the under 19's – in July 2007.
- Correspondence from a charity 'Rainbow Trust' – it supports disadvantaged Children. It is supported by 'Children in Need'
- Correspondence (via CL) from 'Moore Stephens Insurance Brokers' about insurance for our Club. It was discussed it with CL and it was decided we didn't need it.
- Email correspondence from Maurice Cahn to say that the cost of Bridgemates had been reduced by 30% (e.g. £900 for 6 tables).
- On 28th April it was confirmed with Osbournes Insurance that we did not want to renew our Club Insurance, as agreed by Committee. CL has given the original correspondence with the Guild Hall on the matter of the insurance they provide to CK.
- In late August an email was received from Brenda Harris asking about our club's views on the EBU strategy document.
- CK had been in correspondence with Brian Robinson of Bicester with regard to a contribution from Bicester to our costs for the aborted match on 22nd March 2007 – he is referring it to his general committee.

GC had received correspondence from the Guild Hall about its' noticeboard. Each advertising feature is only valid for two weeks. JM agreed to check if our details were still available in the Abingdon Library. It was suggested that maybe we should circulate correspondence on County events by email.

Action: **JM**

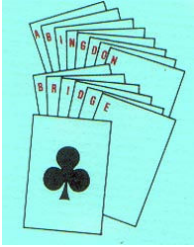
5. Ratification of Club Policies

The Club policies on pairs handicaps and Gifts to members had been documented by CK. The policy on club handicaps was annotated by hand to include reference to the pairs competition and then both policies were signed by GC.

6. Date and Venue for the Len Salmon Trophy

This had been agreed with Wallingford BC to be Sunday 28th October at Roke village hall. Karen and Valerie had agreed to organise the catering previously – GC to confirm. JM agreed to help.

Action: **GC**



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7. Recording of Email Addresses

It was agreed that we would ask members to provide their email addresses – if they wished. These addresses would be used for 'emergencies', information, etc. GC to ask members to provide addresses on the table slips for at least four weeks. GS to collate and maintain the information.

Action: **GC, GS**

8. OBA meeting on 13th September 2007

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

Stephen Brown took the chair in the absence of an appointed Chairman. He thanked Malcolm Simpson for the first County Newsletter. There are some errors in the prospectus... amendments will be highlighted in red on the web. There were four positions to fill for the County – (a) Chairman, (b) help for Rita Todd as competitions secretary (c) Master points Secretary (d) Someone to organise the County Pairs Competition. CK volunteered to do (d). The EBU strategy document was discussed at the meeting and proposals will not be ratified now until February – we were asked to canvass our members and be ready to discuss at the November OBA meeting. Apparently some organisations (e.g. the West Midlands BC) are threatening to boycott the EBU if the proposals go ahead. There are some issues about software provided by the EBU free of charge (probably scorebridge) – can clubs still use their own? There is to be a new competition (and trophy) in memory of Brian Claridge – it will be awarded to the player of the best played hand in county matches each season. The 2008 Congress/Green Point events were discussed. Benson village hall are putting up their charges by 100%, so there was some discussion as to whether we should run the black pointed pairs on the Saturday that runs at a loss – do we want to keep it? Or maybe run a GP Swiss pairs on the same weekend as the GP swiss teams – so just have one weekend, not two. It would be more profitable that way.. but do we want to promote black pointed pairs in the County for the weaker players? We were asked to give our views over the next few weeks, as a decision will need to be made before the next OBA management meeting. Lynne Hayes presented revised and audited balance sheets. These were approved by the meeting. The meeting approved the funding of two directors to go on a county director's course (£150) with the proviso that they will subsequently do one county event free.

It was agreed that the ADBC committee would not support the black pointed event for next year – CK to communicate this to the OBA Management Committee.

Action: **CK**

9. Opinions on EBU Strategy Document

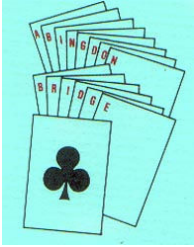
The EBU strategy document was discussed. The committee was in agreement with the proposals - the ADBC delegates to the OBA Management Committee were asked to communicate this at the next OBA meeting.

Action: **CK, GC, VW**

10. Proposed Club Host system

Information on Summertown and Wallingford systems were circulated prior to the meeting. GC described what was in place at Wantage. After some discussion there was a vote 5-2 in favour of giving it a trial at Abingdon, to start from January 2008. It was decided that the host would receive two free weeks if they have to go home and to play for nothing if they get to stay. GC to announce our intentions and to gauge feedback from the members, in readiness for the preparation of a 'host' calendar.

Action: **GC**



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11. Wessex League

All match dates and venues had been agreed. All home dates had now been confirmed with the Guild Hall.

12. Christmas Party

The date had been set. Catering – DW agreed to organise on the night – the fine detail to be resolved at the next meeting.

13. Oxfordshire Po-Am tournament

GC had made the 'casting vote' and decided that Abingdon would not hold a heat of the Pro-am. Stephen Brown needed to know in time for the publishing of the OBA brochure.

14. AOB

(1) There was some discussion about the success or otherwise of the summer frolics. It was agreed that if the host system was a success, there would be no need for it. It was agreed that some members did not like random pairing, but any decision to drop it would be made by the new committee next year.

(2) Chairs – it was agreed to count up the blue chairs tomorrow night and discuss at the next meeting.

(3) There was some discussion about the acceptance of new members – and following the process described in the constitution. CK agreed to put an application form together in time for the next meeting. The identity of 4 Committee members involved in the decision to be recorded.

Action: **CK**

(4) It was agreed to support scorebridge funding to the tune of ~£9

(5) It was agreed that the money for the EBU SIMS would be £4.50 for members and £5.00 for visitors.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.