

ABINGDON DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of a meeting of the committee held on Monday 28th April 2008, 7.30pm at 6 Champs Close, Abingdon

Present: David Walton (DW) (Chair); Clive Keep (CK) (Secretary); Jean Moore (JM), Brian Moore (BM) Graham Simpson (GS), Ian Van Maanen (IVM); Andrew Speyer (AS).

1. Apologies for Absence: Keith Sadler

2. Minutes of 28th January 2008

The minutes for 28th January were agreed and signed by DW.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

All actions had been carried out except that GS was having difficulty in sending an appropriate file of members email addresses to GC and CK. DW said that the host system was working OK.. except for getting people to be Host for Pair's evenings. There had been very little response to the Dijon Bridge Club Proposal.

4. Club Correspondence

CK reported on the correspondence he had received since the last meeting:-

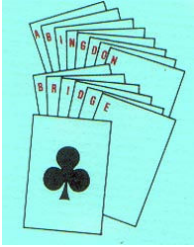
- March 2008 - Holiday bridge details from organiser of bridge in Spain in 2008 (Costa Calida) – details were in Spanish, email put on the notice board.
- Usual correspondence about SIMS events from Anna Gudge of ECATS
- March 2008 – letter from Warden of St Michael and All Angels church in Park Road about the possible use of their refurbished church and hall – and my email response on the subject. It was agreed that GC would visit the church and report at the next meeting. We need to know – (a) Floor space, (b) parking arrangements (c) storage facilities, (d) costs. Accommodation would be an item on the agenda at the next meeting. Action: **GC**
Action: **CK**
- Email from Richard Sills (Sec, OBC) about the National Newcomer's Pairs at OBC on 16th March – put up on notice board
- Email from OBA sec – about new EBU newsletter – put up on notice board
- Email from EBU about EBU strategy document – now finalised and on EBU website from 25th March 2008 – County representatives voting at EGM on 4th June 2008
- Invoice from EBU for master point cost for events up to 18/12/07 - £50.16 – gave to AS on 25/3/08
- Email from Woodberry bridge club re an invitation to play in a simultaneous event on the 1st November 2008 and then winners might play in London on Sunday 2nd. It was agreed that we would not enter – CK to notify the organisers. Action: **CK**
- Advertising literature for bridge holidays in France
- Correspondence from Mr Bridge – bridge directory – it was agreed that we would complete the form. Action: **CK**

5. Annual Subscriptions

GC had volunteered to collect the subscriptions this year and therefore be membership secretary. It was agreed that the new membership secretary post should be considered ASAP after the AGM.

6. OBA Meeting on the 31st March 2008

CK had attended and reported on the OBA Management meeting on 31st March 2008. Brenda Harris chaired the meeting in the absence of a County Chairman.



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- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- Stephen Brown had contacted Keith Sadler and confirmed that Keith did not wish to run the OBA Congress in June. Lynne Hayes agreed to coordinate the event and had several offers for assistance from the floor. The event will be held in Steventon Village hall. The entry fee cannot be increased due to the fact that it has already been publicised, but it was agreed that an extra mandatory charge of £4 would be charged for tea – so it would be £25 a head.
- There was some discussion about the agreed rise in OBA subscription to £4, but due to an administrative error by the EBU this will not be collected until next year.
- The OBC had had a committee meeting at which there had been some discussion about putting up the Sunday charges to the OBA (currently £25, proposed charge maybe £50). Stephen Brown pointed out that the OBA contributed towards the cost of the extension to the OBC premises and low rates were part of that deal. The OBC accepted that the rates for a Tuesday night were fine. This will be discussed at a later OBC meeting.
- The subject of publishing members' email addresses in the prospectus was broached – increase in spam email etc. It was agreed to leave as is.
- An EBU delegate (John Carter) will attend a meeting of the OBA to discuss the EBU strategy on 29th May. A vote will be taken at that meeting to mandate our three EBU shareholders in the way they should vote (e.g. if two thirds are in favour, then we will ask 2 shareholders to vote for, with one against). Abingdon has three votes, regardless of how many representatives we have present at the meeting, contrary to the usual rules. The shareholders' meeting to discuss this issue (and when the shareholder vote will be taken) is on 4th June at an EGM.
- The next meeting will be a short one following the AGM on 12th June

7. Calendar May 2008 to July 2009

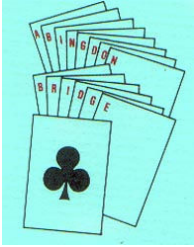
CK had circulated a draft prior to the meeting. It was agreed (a) no Summer Frolics, (b) There would be an individual night and open pairs night in August, (c) The open pairs and Teams events would be scrapped in December, (d) There would be no OBA SIMS heat next year, (e) The AGM would be on the 17th March 2009, (f) August 2009 would be left off the calendar. It was agreed that a draft calendar, with member's phone numbers would be put on the noticeboard by 13th May 2008 (and circulated to committee members).

Action: **CK & GC**

8. Allocation of Tasks for the Year

Tasks were allocated for this year. The following were agreed:- (members responsible in brackets):

- Collection/engraving of trophies in Jan/Feb 2009 (J&BM).
- Liaison with Guild Hall (DW)
- Club scorers (GS, with DW in reserve)
- Checking of stationery for club nights (DW, JM, IVM)
- Club website (CK)
- Scoring of Club competitions (DW, CK for handicaps)
- Membership Secretary (GC)
- Club Host rota (DW)
- Club representatives at OBA meetings (GC, IVM, CK)
- Laws and Ethics Committee (CK, MPS, JC)
- Wessex League Selection Committee (GC, GS, CK)
- Len Salmon Trophy (GC & KS)
- Director's rota (DW)



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- 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) – DW to announce at the Club and move waste bin nearer to the drinks table.

9. Ratification of Club Handicaps

(a) CK had calculated the club handicaps and GS had reviewed them. All were accepted by the committee. CK to publish them.

Action: **CK**

10. EBU P2P proposal - review

IVM had circulated his review of the EBU P2P proposal prior to the meeting and summarised his findings:-

Ian believed that the shareholders should vote against the proposal on the following grounds:

- the P2P proposal states very few advantages of the new system over the current system;
- there is little detailed planning of what the new system will provide;
- the cost of the proposals is poorly worked out, and no mention is made of which activities will be dropped or reduced in order to pay for the cost of implementation and the new activities which are promised;
- the EBU is showing little interest in what services are of interest to the people financially hardest hit by the change;
- there is a risk that the P2P system may cause a drift of members from affiliated clubs to non-affiliated clubs.

There then followed much discussion on the topic, with each committee member giving their views. In particular there was some concern expressed about the contractual arrangements between the EBU and each affiliated club, in particular it was agreed that clubs should not be asked to approve obligations on more than a 12 month timescale. Everyone was in agreement with the P2P principle, but had grave concerns on how the EBU spends its money. However, it was agreed that the committee needs to agree how to mandate its representatives at the meeting to discuss this issue on 29th May. It will be 'yes' or 'no' at that meeting. Those present took a vote – and it was agreed that our representatives would vote 2 to 1 in favour of the proposal (we have 3 votes, no matter how many attend).

It was agreed that IVM would send a copy of his review document to Marie Ann Sheehy (OBA Secretary) for distribution.

Action: **IVM**

11. Any Other Business

GC raised the issue of Cub finances, with the increase in room rent, duplimate boards etc. It was agreed that this should be taken as a full agenda item at the next meeting – however, it was agreed that we would raise the table money charges to £2.50 for visitors from the 1st May 2008 – DW to announce at the club.

Action: **CK**

Action: **DW**

The meeting closed at 10.17pm.