

THE OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Summary of Current and Proposed Use.

NUMBERS

- 1 The club currently operates regular bridge sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings and Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.
- 2 In addition there are beginner bridge sessions on Monday evenings, Thursday mornings and Thursday evenings. There is a rubber bridge session on Thursday afternoon. The Oxfordshire Bridge Association (OBA) also runs a session on Tuesday evenings.
- 3 In three ten-week terms per year, the clubhouse also accommodates one or two 2-hour sessions of tutoring which are fitted in where the club is not running a normal duplicate session – usually on a Wednesday and/or Friday morning.
- 4 Occasional competitions and matches are held at the weekend and on some evenings
- 5 Morning sessions start at 10.00 am and end between 12 noon and 1pm; evening sessions last from 7.15pm to 10.30pm (occasionally 11.00pm). Weekend sessions typically last from 2pm to 7pm or 8pm.
- 6 At present the club has the capacity for 19 tables (76 players at 4 per table). When demand is high, usually on some Wednesday and Friday evenings and additional 10 players can be squeezed in giving a maximum of 86 players.
- 7 Since 1 April 2011 average attendances have been as follows:

Monday morning:	36
Tuesday morning	52
Wednesday evening	70
Friday evening	66

- Monday evenings average about 16 players. Thursday mornings average about 32 players and Thursday evenings about 14 players. The rubber bridge session attracts no more than 8-10 players. The OBA Tuesday evening session attracts between 30 and 70 players.
- 8 The proposed changes will increase the capacity to 25 tables. The proposed extension will permit the tables to be set out to standards recommended by the English Bridge Union as opposed to the current arrangement where the tables have to be shoe-horned in to the existing rooms. The proposed extension will allow for a potential increase in the number of players but the primary drivers for the proposed changes are the need for increased flexibility and improved facilities in respect of toilet provision, area per player, improved lighting, heating and ventilation.
 - 9 With the re-organized spaces the club would have the flexibility to run two or three separate sessions at the same time, offering for example

the option of staging a club session at the same time as an inter-club match.

- 10 There would be no change in the hours or timings of the sessions.

TRAVELLING AND PARKING

- 11 The club cannot provide any parking other than the three allotted spaces on the forecourt. . The other two are for the use of the tenants of the two upper floor flats.
- 12 Members come to the club by a combination of private car, taxi, public transport, bicycle and on foot. A good proportion of the membership lives locally in the Summertown area and in North Oxford in general. A significant number lives in Diamond Court on the other side of Moreton Road. Those who come by car either park in the parking zones in the surrounding roads or in the car park in Summertown. We do not see that the proposed changes would result in a material increase in the pressure on parking in the surrounding areas; the membership is well aware of the limitations on parking at the club and has been happy to make alternative arrangements.
- 13 The club plans to further encourage reduced use of private cars by installing extra cycle racks to the rear of the property, publishing bus routes on its web site and notice boards, and advertising a car-sharing scheme.

NOISE AND OTHER DISRUPTION

- 14 Bridge is not a noisy pastime and the club does not consider that any increase in numbers will have any impact on the neighbourhood. The club does have a license to sell drinks to members during playing sessions but no other entertainment is provided.

SOCIAL IMPACT

- 15 The bridge club provides both entertainment and mental stimulation for its members, and was featured on the BBC 10 O clock news in September 2010 in connection with Alzheimer's disease in older people and the benefits that bridge playing can provide. As such the club provides a useful social amenity for the local community around Summertown. An improvement of the facilities can only be good for the members. We are currently full because of lack of space, but the refurbishment will enable us to take on additional member in the future to the benefit of all concerned.

13 January 201

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB

History and Evolution

- Founded in 1951
- Instrumental in founding the Oxfordshire Bridge Association
- Moved to 147 Banbury Road in 1967.
- Built conservatory extension in 1994.
- Purchased 147 Banbury Road in 2004

Status, constitution and governance

- OBC is an unincorporated not-for-profit association, owned by its members.
- The premises at 147 Banbury Road are nominally owned by four trustees, on behalf of the members.
- The procedures of the OBC are regulated by a constitution based on the model constitution of the English Bridge Union.
- OBC is managed by a committee and various sub-committees.
- All functions of OBC are carried out by members of OBC without remuneration.
- Running costs are funded by annual subscriptions and attendance fees.