



OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Newsletter no. 5

January 2010

Funding the English Bridge Union

The OBC committee has considered the effect on Club finances of the EBU's decision to abolish annual subscriptions and raise its funds by a levy on all players playing in all duplicate sessions at affiliated clubs. Briefly, the position is as follows.

- From 1 April 2010, all members of affiliated bridge clubs (including OBC) will become members of the EBU. They will also become members of the Oxfordshire Bridge Association.
- Those who are already members of the EBU will no longer pay an annual subscription to the EBU.
- The EBU and OBA will be funded by a levy (initially 32p) on every player playing in any duplicate session in an affiliated club. This includes Monday and Tuesday mornings, and Wednesday and Friday evenings at OBC.
- Clubs will no longer pay separately for master points (about 13p per player), so the net new cost to clubs will be about 19p (32p minus 13p) per player per session (or 32p in the case of Tuesday mornings, since MPs are not currently awarded).
- To meet this extra cost, as from 1 April 2010, OBC will raise the table money for evening duplicates by 50p, to £3.50. The extra 31p (50p minus 19p) will help to absorb increased costs (e.g. free games for TDs and scorers, the cost of real filtered coffee, inflation since the last increase, etc. ...)
- Table money for Monday and Tuesday mornings will be held at £3, because fewer boards are played, and the Club will bear the extra cost.
- The annual subscription will be unchanged.

NOTE Members who pay their EBU subscription by direct debit or standing order should cancel them forthwith. But please don't cancel your DD or SO to OBC!

Wessex League

By the end of 2009, Oxford teams had all made creditable progress in the Wessex league. The positions so far are shown below. Many thanks to the team captains and to the more than 80 members who have played for the club.

Division	Team	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Position./out of</u>
1:	A (captain Lynne Hayes)	2	1	3 rd /8
2:	B (Wendy Claye)	4	2	3 rd /8
	C (Dave Dobson)	4	2	4 th /8
4:	D (Richard Sills)	3	2	3 rd =/8
5:	E (Pat Lewis)	3	1 (+1 draw)	5 th /7
	F (Peter Sherry)	6	4	3 rd /7
	G (Vicky Fleming)	4	3	2 nd /7

Cliff Pavelin

Ladders

The OBC committee has agreed to continue awarding Ladder Prizes for individual performance in Wednesday and Friday Pairs and Teams. To keep things straightforward we have elected to use the new software (ScoreBridge) to calculate the ladders based on a year running from May to April.

The criteria for entry onto the Wednesday or Friday ladder are to have played at least a certain number of times during the year and to take a number of the best scores from those attendances. There will be about fifty Wednesdays and Fridays during the year when bridge is played (taking account of Christmas and New Year). Of the Wednesdays, twelve will be taken up with Teams events, leaving about thirty-eight Wednesdays and fifty Fridays in the ladder pool.

For the Wednesday ladder, a contender will have to play at least twenty times and their best twenty scores will determine their position (reduced level of evenings due to Teams).

For the Friday ladder, a contender will have to play at least twenty five times and their best twenty five scores will determine their position.

For the Teams Ladder, a contender will have to play at least six times.

The ladders will be updated on a monthly basis and posted on the main notice board in the middle room.

Max Booker

Running Oxford Bridge Club

A private members' club which does not employ executive staff can run only if members come forward to fill vacancies. After serving for a number of years, several OBC officers have expressed a wish to stand down at the next AGM, in May 2010. We are therefore looking for members who would be willing to serve in one of several capacities, namely:

Chairman
Secretary
Minutes Secretary
Tournament Director
Match Secretary
House Officer

If you would be willing to consider performing one of those roles, why not have a word with the current postholder, to find out what it involves?

If you are genuinely too busy at present, why not suggest someone else who you think may be a suitable candidate?

Playing policy at OBC

Max Booker has spent a great deal of time drafting policies for players, scorers and tournament directors at OBC. The following text is a summary of the Playing Policy. Any member who wishes to see the full text of the Playing Policy, or the Scoring or Directing Policy, should ask Max (or Richard Sills) for a copy.

- ◆ Each session is run by a Tournament Director and will have a scorer – this may be the same person. Please treat the Scorer and Director with respect, as they are doing a difficult job as well as playing bridge.
- ◆ **For the sake of both the Scorer's and Director's health, it is requested that players try to turn up at Oxford Bridge Club by 9.45am / 7.00pm and be seated, ready to play, at 9.55am / 7.10pm as appropriate. If one of the partners is present, this is enough so that the Director and Scorer know how many pairs will be playing.**
- ◆ If it is difficult to make it to the club suitably early, a phone call is enough to book a table.
 - Please ensure you are sitting at a table or **clearly** mark a place so the Director can start to prepare the movement. Please then do not change places UNLESS you also tell the Director.
 - At 9.55am / 7.10pm it is requested that **all** players take their seats so that the movement can be checked and announcements made.
- ◆ It is the policy of Oxford Bridge Club that the Director has the right to refuse entry to pairs who turn up after 7.10pm. You might be lucky in that there is a sit-out table, but bear in mind that if there is no sit-out, the Director is likely to ask you to leave.
- ◆ The capacity of OBC has been set at 19 tables. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Another good reason to arrive early!
- ◆ All players are expected to have a convention card which matches that of their partner.
- ◆ Pre-filled convention cards are available at OBC. These cover the three most common systems.
- ◆ Sit-out tables should be spread evenly between NS and EW sit-outs. The Director's list will indicate which way the sit-out occurs on a random basis.
- ◆ The Director may request that initial seating is allocated on a random basis – such as drawing a table number from a bag.
- ◆ In all cases of dispute, the TD has discretion to require that members draw a card to decide orientation for the session; or to draw a single card himself, which will determine whether all pairs remain in place or change their orientation.
- ◆ When there are 17 tables or more, we will run a two-section movement to ensure that everybody has a chance to play the same boards.

To enable easy implementation, OBC needs to be seen as two areas:

 - the Conservatory, which will contain the Howell movement (6½ or 7 tables)
 - the Centre Room, Front Room and the Mary Good Room, which will contain the Mitchell movement (10½ to 12 tables)
- ◆ If you are a player who needs to be stationary for the evening, then let the Director know. Try to sit in the Mitchell section as NS. If you sit in the Howell section, it becomes more difficult to ensure you will be stationary, although this can be accommodated by one table at least.
- ◆ Only pairs with a genuine need to sit N/S may expect to be always allowed to do so. The Management Committee will draw up and maintain a list of members in this category. Members not so listed may request to be added to the list.

- ◆ A round is expected to take 7 minutes per board with 1 minute for the move, so a 2 board round is played in 15 minutes and a 3 board round in 22 minutes. If the move is called before you start to bid a board or while you are still bidding a board, please call the Director who will assess the situation. He will not normally allow the board to be played. Consistently slow players will be warned. After this, boards may be removed. Following removal of a second board, a fine will be imposed on the offending pair (2 MPs). It is discourteous to those players following you and to those players who are kept waiting at the next table.
- ◆ It is the policy at Oxford Bridge Club that should a mishap occur at your table, you are required to call the Director.
- ◆ Members of the Oxford Bridge Club are expected to be familiar with:
 - the rules and requirements of table etiquette
 - bidding procedures (Alerting, Announcing and the Stop! card)
 - strength definitions – e.g. the expected strength of a 2C (Acol) or 2D (Benji) bid.

Forthcoming events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Who for</u>
Wednesday 20 January	7.15pm	BGB simultaneous pairs	OBC full members
Sunday 24 January	2.00pm	County Harwell Cup	OBA members
Tuesday 26 January	7.30pm	County Pro-Am	Players of all abilities
Wednesday 27 January	7.15pm	National Pairs club heat	OBC full members
Sunday 14 February	2.30pm	Beck Salver (pairs)	OBC full members
Thursday 18 February	7.15pm	Winnie Ling Trophy	Mixed Pairs – OBC full and associate members
Sunday 14 March	2.30pm	Individual Trophy	OBC full members
Monday 29 March	7.15pm	Morrie Marsh Trophy	Genuine novices, with fewer than 500 master points
Wednesday 14 April	7.15pm	BGB simultaneous pairs	OBC full members

And finally ...

The EBU Club Focus runs a bridge-related limerick competition, with a specific county theme. The current county is Gloucestershire, so your Club Secretary sent off a couple of entries, as follows.

A player from Frampton-on-Severn
Originally hailed from North Devon.
He never would heed
The opening lead
Nor remember the rule of eleven.

A very deaf lady from Stroud,
Whose voice was exceedingly loud,
Would announce what she'd scored
On every board
To an avidly listening crowd.

Well, players with a west country accent may quibble with the rhymes in the first limerick – but I guess that players in clubs up and down the country may recognise a player like the one in the second

Here's wishing everyone a very happy and successful new year!