



Oxfordshire Bridge Association News, July 2017

Events

The OBA's **Congress** held on 10/11 June was a great success with over 60 tables in play. The OBA has been encouraging regular club players to attend: the number claiming "non expert" status has more than doubled in the last two years. We were delighted to have several school-age players taking part on both days. Feedback was mostly very positive. Players did complain that the venue had too many 'Out of Order' notices on the toilets. Suggestions for change focused on catering. The organisers are already looking at improvements to both for next year.

The **Oxford Festival of Bridge**, aimed at all who enjoy bridge as a game, with a mixture of bridge sessions, socialising and fun, with great venues like Christchurch, St Hugh's College (right), the Ashmolean and a clutch of High Street cafes, will happen on 4-7 September (Monday to Thursday). More information at oxfordbridgefestival.co.uk. Bookings are gathering pace: don't miss out by being too late.



Youth

Continuation of our game depends on the excellent work being done by the teachers and teaching clubs. Oxfordshire is doing very well in teaching, especially with the young. The work of teams led by Alison Nicolson (Education Officer) and Joan Bennett (Youth Officer) has made Oxfordshire preeminent in youth development. Joan is taking a party of school students to play at the House of Lords later this month. Check out the lively Bridge4Schools site.

Chester Cup

Entries are now being made for the Chester Cup - a friendly OBA league competition for teams of four. The teams do not have to represent a club. Matches are hosted by the 'home' team. The emphasis is on a sociable time with refreshments, and a pleasant match of 24 boards. Details on the OBA website under '[Competitions](#)'. Please do consider encouraging your players to make up a team or two.

County Selection

How the OBA selects its representative teams might be a mystery to some. Selection Committee Chairman Nick Smith has produced a very readable guide, copy attached, to explain it. Now is a great time for players to consider putting their names forward.

Coming soon

The next monthly OBA Seniors Pairs takes place near Wallingford on Monday 10 July, from 11 am to about 3:30 pm. Anyone can enter but only OBA members aged 55 and over can win the trophy. Great value at £4 a head. Details on the OBA website.

Unaffiliated clubs

The OBA is looking at what it can do to support a wider range of bridge players in and around the County. The first step is getting in contact. If you know a club or even a group of players – maybe in your golf club or the back room of the Dog'n'Duck – please let them know we would love to hear from them, or tell us how we could drop them a line.