



NEWS FROM THE OXFORD JUNIOR BRIDGE CLUB

Our busy, spring term ended on 17th March with 18 children running around Summertown church hall garden hunting for Easter eggs!



Many, many thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work and support this term, which has been action packed, one way and another. Thanks, also to Max Potter, our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer.

On 27th January, we held our annual 'taster session.' Many thanks to Peter Finbow and my husband, Colin, who helped me to deliver 900 flyers to local households, in very cold weather.

Huge thanks also, to Sandra Nicholson and Joan Bennett who came especially to help with this session. We had a record x 33 people in the church hall, x 15 of whom were attending the taster session!

We have since suggested that the keen South American ladies, young at heart, but not juniors, learn in a more adult environment.

However, as a direct result of this taster session, we now have six regular new pupils, four of whom took part in the Mini bridge section of the Loughborough Schools Challenge.

On 3rd February, we held our annual competition at the newly refurbished Oxford Bridge Club. 43 juniors attended from as far away as Devon and London. We ran three sections, Mini bridge, Novice bidders and Experienced bidders and are immensely grateful to Liza Furnival, Mike Fletcher, Avis Roberts and Peter Sherry for their diligent and patient scoring and directing skills!

On 3rd March, many of our pupils attended a day of bridge at Wallingford Bridge Club, organised by Joan Bennett, enjoying teaching in the morning and an afternoon competition.

On 10th March, we welcomed Bernard Eddlestone, Chairman of the Youth Advisory Group, to the club and he "enjoyed" (we hope!) a busy afternoon of observing, advising and assisting us.

Finally, on 16th March, x 10 of our pupils competed in the annual Schools Challenge held at Loughborough Grammar School and organised by the EBU.

Our team of Zane Soonwalla, Freddie Beneat, Thomas and Jacob Potter came a very respectable 6th in a strong field, including much older juniors and young internationals.

Our less experienced pair, Arturo Saville and Alex Kroening, playing in a team with two girls from Westminster, also did extremely well and Mini bridge players, Emily McAndrew and Martha Ward came second in a field of nine tables! Max and Rory McAndrew also did well and our huge admiration goes out to these Mini bridge players who had been playing for less than one term! Well done to them all and sincere thanks to the parents for getting them there and back safely!

We were delighted to welcome Henry Rose, our first pupil, to the club on 17th March. Henry has been playing for the Under 16 international team since he was 11 years old and his team won the Harry Scully trophy at Loughborough. Henry and his mother, Helen went over the more challenging hands with our pupils who had played in the competition the day before.

We are proud of our pupils who continue to train with Giorgio Provenza, the England Under 16 coach:

Freddie Beneat, Thomas and Jacob Potter, Zane and Zoe Soonawalla and William Wauchope.

Now that we enjoy between x 16 and x 20 pupils every Sunday at approximately four different stages of learning, we would welcome help dealing hands. Approximately x 26 boards are needed every week, on different topics, in order that our juniors continue to learn successfully and at their own pace.

Might it now be viable to own our own dealing machine? They cost approximately £2,500.00 new. Does anyone know of a second hand machine or of relevant grants available for such devices?

The very late Easter holiday has created timetabling problems for us but our shorter summer term starts on:

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL at the usual time of 2.30 pm in Summertown Church Hall.

HALF TERM: 26TH MAY

Happy bridge and happy holidays to all our pupils, volunteers and parents!

Holly Kilpatrick
Oxfordshire Bridge Association
Youth Bridge Organiser
Central Oxford and North Oxfordshire