

County Pairs Bylaws

1. The format consists of qualifying heats, semi-finals and a final.
2. Only players whose county of primary allegiance is Oxfordshire are eligible to play from the semi-final onwards.
3. Any club pairs duplicate of 20+ boards in the weeks commencing 19th November, 3th December and 7th January act as qualifiers for a semifinal. It's helpful if clubs advertise these on their website so that their members know.
4. Clubs may designate their heat(s) as members-only.
5. Any heat must be open to all members and not restricted with regard to NGS or other measure of ability.
6. A heat may be face-to-face or online. If online, the club may choose RealBridge or BBO.
7. Players may not visit a club other than one of their normal clubs for the purpose of qualifying.
8. A player unable to play in a club heat may play in the OBA heat, played on Thursday 30th November.
9. Players may compete in more than one qualifying heat in the same season and with more than one partner, within their own club(s).
10. Players who score 50% or over in any heat may play in any one, but only one, of the semi-finals. They may only play with a partner with whom they qualified. Substitute players in a partnership are not allowed.
11. Semi-finals will be held on 1st February, 11th February and 19 February; these dates are also advertised on the OBA website. Semifinals shall be played on RealBridge and will be one winner events.
12. Qualification from the semi-finals will be based on a weighting directly proportionate to the size of the individual semi-finals. i.e. The number of qualifiers from a semi-final will be $20 \times (\text{no. of pairs in this semi-final}) / (\text{total no. of pairs in all semi-finals})$ rounded to the nearest integer (0.5 rounded up). If this gives more than 20 qualifiers then from the semi-finals which have been rounded up the pair(s) which are furthest below the qualifier above them will be eliminated in order till there are 20 qualifiers. If the original calculation gives fewer than 20 qualifiers then from the semi-finals which have been rounded down the pair(s) which are closest to the qualifier above them will be added in order until there are 20 qualifiers.
13. Reserve pairs will gain qualification when a qualifying pair withdraws. Reserves will be taken from the next TWO highest qualifying places in the semi-final where a pair has withdrawn, provided they have scored 50%. After this the place in the final will be offered to the pair with the highest non-qualifying score across all semi-finals. No pair who scores less than 50% in a semi-final may qualify for the final.
14. The final will be held on 17th March on RealBridge and will consist of 20 pairs.
15. The winners of the Final shall receive the County Pairs Cup.
16. The first four pairs in the final are eligible for the EBU Corwen Trophy (the inter-county pairs final), and will have their entry fee paid by OBA. Where one or more of the top four pairs do not wish to play in the Corwen Trophy their place in the Corwen Trophy will be offered in turn to the next highest placed pairs.