



News

February 2018

Congress 2018

The OBA Congress will be held in Woodstock over the weekend of 9/10 June. This is a major event with a [Swiss Pairs](#) on the Saturday and [Swiss Teams](#) on the Sunday, green pointed as usual; and there will be a new [friendly pairs](#) on the Sunday afternoon, with the Sandra Landy Trophy at stake. The friendly pairs is limited to players with NGS rank 9 or lower. (If you are not familiar with the NGS, ask me or ask around in your club.) The Swiss sessions are open to all: you can enter both of them or just one.

There will be several prizes, not only for winners and high-finishers in all competitions but also best ascenders and top non-experts in the Swiss Pairs. There are new catering arrangements this year under management of the providers of the excellent tea on the opening day of the Festival last year.

If you haven't been to the Congress before, this will be a great year to try it.

A new club affiliates to the OBA

We welcome [Freeland Bridge Club](#), which has joined the EBU and affiliated to the OBA. The club's stylish website gives details and extends a welcome to visitors.

Results

Oxfordshire finished 6th in the final of the national inter-county championships for teams of eight, the Tollemache Cup. This is a heavyweight competition. The County has made it to the final two years running, and this year has improved its final standing. The team was Alan Wilson/Chris Cooper, Robert Procter/Michael Robinson, Mary-Ann Sheehy/Christopher Whitehouse, and Emily Middleton/Nick Smith. Aleks Lishkov and Ian Angus were part of the team that qualified for the final, but had to withdraw from the final for business reasons.

County league matches this month were played against Derbyshire. Our A and B teams lost; the C team won.

The Harwell Cup (a teams-of-4 event) was won by Michiel Cottaar/Peter Litchfield and Kathy/Denis Talbot.

Jean Carter and Robert Procter won the OBA Seniors Pairs. Gillian Lonsdale & Jo Murray are currently at the top of the ladder, with a couple of months to go.

Events

The [fundraiser for the national junior bridge squad](#) will take place at Abingdon BC on Monday 12th March. The emphasis of the day is on learning and fun, with a tea. Cost £20.

The County's [Mens Pairs](#) & [Ladies Pairs](#) Championship events will both take place at Yarnton on the evening of Thursday 29th March. Follow the links to enter your names and find more details.

The next [County Seniors Pairs](#) is on Monday, 12th March at Roke (near Wallingford).

Wessex League

The Wessex League is the County's inter-club teams-of-8 competition, now nearing the end of the 2017/18 season. Teams from Oxford BC head the 1st and 4th divisions and cannot be dislodged; Wallingford head the 2nd division, Witney the 3rd and Aylesbury Vale the 5th, each with at least the theoretical chance of being nudged out of top spot when the remaining matches are played.

If your club doesn't yet have a team in the League, do give some thought over the next couple of months to putting up a team for the 2018/19 season. [Nigel Wilkes](#) is the person to contact.

Management Committee

The next Management Committee meeting is on March 8th.

Feedback please to Lawrence Haines, OBA Comms, obafestival@gmx.co.uk

