

OBJECTIVES OF THE OXFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The County's Constitution lists the overall objectives for the Association. The first and most important of these is "To promote and assist in the development of duplicate contract bridge in the county of Oxfordshire".

The Management Committee recognises that this is a joint responsibility of county and affiliated clubs and needs to cater for the whole county geographically and for players of all ability and experience. It has set up teams responsible for carrying out the plan for the development of duplicate bridge in Oxfordshire.

These teams and their individual overall aims, approved by the Management Committee, are as follows (please click on the highlighted headings to view more detailed objectives):

Education and Duplicate Bridge Promotion: To ensure the provision throughout Oxfordshire of bridge education appropriate to all levels from beginner to county standard. To encourage and support individuals and groups to play bridge and minibridge and to help those wishing to progress to duplicate bridge.

Leader – Robert Procter.

Ex officio - Alison Nicolson as Education Officer. Others - Ian Mitchell, Dave Watkins, Judy Wesselbaum, Gaye Kyle.

Detailed objectives:

To ensure adequate publicity for all bridge learning opportunities already available in Oxfordshire

To help teachers and clubs to set up learning opportunities where none exist

To ensure adequate opportunities exist for beginners and improvers to give them the experience necessary to make them feel comfortable playing at a club duplicate

To ensure that teachers in the county have appropriate training and teaching materials

To provide opportunities for more advanced players to help those with less experience

To promote and run events increasing awareness of bridge in the community, particularly the awareness of duplicate bridge amongst existing bridge players

Selection and County Team Management: To improve the performance of all the county teams while ensuring that county-level bridge is fully integrated with other bridge activity in the county.

Leader - John Slater

Ex officio - Alan Wilson as captain and Nick Smith as Chairman of the Selection Committee

Detailed objectives:

To oversee the work of the County Selection Committee on behalf of the Management Committee, encouraging a direct link between performance in significant county events and selection

To develop learning opportunities for the county's more advanced players, particularly looking to identify those that can be resourced from amongst those players themselves

To widen the opportunities to represent the county outside the county, providing a ladder of progression from county events to county player and widening the pool of players with county level experience

Competitions: Leader - John Slater

Members : Nigel Wilkes: Competitions Secretary (also Wessex League) , Chief TDs: John Rowe (Organising), Kathy Talbot (Consulting), Sandra Claridge: Chester Cup and Presidents Cup/Plate Organiser, Claire McDonagh: (money/catering) Geoff Nicholas: Seniors, John Slater: Ladders & Premiership, Ian Angus: National things and entering competitions

Detailed objectives:

To review the competitions already run by the county considering what changes, including regionalisation and stratification, might increase their attraction and considering whether further competitions might be introduced to cater for the less experienced player

To increase the attraction of the weekly county night (intended as an opportunity for better club players to participate in a higher standard field than is available at their local club)

To ensure that overall county nights and internal competitions (hence excluding the Congress) at least cover their costs

To develop the Oxfordshire Congress to meet the recognised growing need for expansion

Youth: To encourage and support children to play bridge and mini bridge

Team members: Joan Bennett, Alison Nicolson and Holly Kilpatrick.

Detailed objectives:

To ensure schools are aware of schemes to introduce bridge and minibridge for children and of events run for children by the OBA and EBED

Social: To promote playing and learning opportunities appropriate to those who see duplicate bridge primarily as a social rather than competitive experience

Vacant

Detailed objectives:

To run county-wide or regional duplicate bridge events that meet the needs of those seeking a social bridge experience, such as expanding the Oxford Congress to appeal to such players and running charity events such as "Café Bridge"

To liaise with clubs to share good ideas that already exist and to build a best practice model for establishing a social bridge club

To build a Social Bridge page on the county's website to promote opportunities to take part in social bridge events throughout the county

Infrastructure: To manage the finances, premises, communication and people needed to realise the aims of the other teams

Leader – Robert Procter

Ex officio members - Claire MacDonagh as Treasurer, Stephen Brown as Website Officer

Detailed objectives:

To monitor the budgets, income and expenditure of the other teams to ensure that they remain within the parameters set by the Management Committee

To negotiate terms for the use of premises to house the county's activities in the short term and to consider the longer term viability of the county association acquiring or renting its own premises

To develop the county's communication media (including website, E-mail, club liaison, newsletter and publicity) to ensure that the county communicates regularly and effectively with all current and potential duplicate bridge players in the county

To recruit officers in the event of posts becoming vacant and to help other team leaders to recruit people for tasks necessary for the achievement of their objectives