

## County Teams Selectors Report for June 2026 AGM

The selection committee have been asked to report to the OBA membership on representative matches played over the past year. These matches are the Midlands League Inter- County matches, the National Inter-county League Finals, and the Tollemache Cup.

### Summary of Midlands Counties League Performance

Gloucestershire won the Dawes League. Oxfordshire came fourth, losing our matches to Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire by significant margins.

In the Porter League, Oxfordshire came first, remaining unbeaten for a second year in a row.

Oxfordshire also won the Markham, winning all the matches.

Finally, Oxfordshire also won the Nine High Division, with only four counties submitting teams.

We are very grateful to all the players who have given their time to represent Oxfordshire. The strength in depth which these team results show reflects the time and effort put into the game of bridge by the volunteers running the game within the county, including directors, teachers, scorers, administrators, organisers, sponsors and all those making the clubs run. We can reflect with some pride on the successes which the endeavours of so many people deliver – some other counties are really struggling, with one county withdrawing from the League for 2026-27.

The tables below show the individual match results.

#### Division 1

#		G	N	L	O	W	W	D	S	Total	Ave
1	Gloucestershire	+	12	17	18	10	14	9	19	99	14.14
2	Nottinghamshire	8	+	6	19	13	12	18	17	93	13.29
3	Leicestershire	3	14	+	7	12	12	16	17	81	11.57
4	Oxfordshire	2	1	13	+	19	10	18	14	77	11.00
5	Warwickshire	10	7	8	1	+	11	17	19	73	10.43
6	Worcestershire	6	8	8	10	9	+	4	17	62	8.86
7	Derbyshire	11	2	4	2	3	16	+	16	54	7.71
8	Staffs & Shropshire	1	3	3	6	1	3	4	+	21	3.00

### Division 2

#		O	G	W	D	L	S	W	N	Total	Ave
1	Oxfordshire	+	18	20	13	11	10	16	19	107	15.29
2	Gloucestershire	2	+	2	8	14	16	12	20	74	10.57
=	Warwickshire	0	18	+	15	6	11	16	8	74	10.57
4	Derbyshire	7	12	5	+	15	16	2	16	73	10.43
5	Leicestershire	9	6	14	5	+	12	11	14	71	10.14
6	Staffs & Shropshire	10	4	9	4	8	+	14	14	63	9.00
7	Worcestershire	4	8	4	18	9	6	+	2	51	7.29
8	Nottinghamshire	1	0	12	4	6	6	18	+	47	6.71

### Division 3

#		O	G	W	W	D	L	S	N	Total	Ave
1	Oxfordshire	+	17	17	19	13	11	18	20	115	16.43
2	Gloucestershire	3	+	6	18	13	18	18	10	86	12.29
3	Warwickshire	3	14	+	8	13	8	18	10	74	10.57
=	Worcestershire	1	2	12	+	13	15	12	19	74	10.57
5	Derbyshire	7	7	7	7	+	14	7	14	63	9.00
6	Leicestershire	9	2	12	5	6	+	16	5	55	7.86
7	Staffs & Shropshire	2	2	2	8	13	4	+	19	50	7.14
8	Nottinghamshire	0	10	10	1	6	15	1	+	43	6.14

## Nine High

#		O	L	G	W	D	N	S	W	Total	Ave
1	Oxfordshire	+	11	12	16					39	13.00
2	Leicestershire	9	+	6	12	15				42	10.50
3	Gloucestershire	8	14	+	9					31	10.33
4	Worcestershire	4	8	11	+					23	7.67
5	Derbyshire		5			+				5	5.00
6	Nottinghamshire						+			0	0.00
=	Staffs & Shropshire							+		0	0.00
=	Warwickshire								+	0	0.00

In terms of participation, 18 players played in the A Team, 26 players played in the B Team and 23 players played in the C Team. In total there were 46 players playing A-C, with 21 players playing in more than one partnership. Previously we have had players based in a number of different countries, this year I think we have only been based in the UK and Estonia.

In the Nine High League we have utilized 11 players in our three matches.

### Summary of National Inter-County League Performance

As a result of winning the Porter and Markham trophies, Oxfordshire qualified to represent the Midlands in the National Inter-County League Finals in June 2026. Oxfordshire came third out of six in both competitions, with the best x-imps being achieved by Alan and Colin Wilson in the B Division and Amr El-Kashef and Martin Illingworth in the C Division.

## Summary of Tollemache Performance 2025

The County selected four pairs to play in the Tollemache qualifying event in November 2025. The format was teams of eight playing eight 7-board matches on Saturday and six on Sunday. The top four teams from each of two halves of the competition qualify to play in the final. Oxfordshire came eighth, failing to qualify by 6 VPs, and really falling foul of one board in the final set.

Position	Team		VPs	Wins
1	1	Surrey	226	12
2	13	Yorkshire	179	9
3	4	Kent	165	9
4	9	Norfolk	160	7.5
5	8	Berks and Bucks	159	7
6=	15	Merseyside/Cheshire	157	7
6=	7	London	157	8
<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>8</b>
9	2	Worcestershire	148	6
10=	14	Cambs and Hunts	141	6
10=	5	North East	141	5
12	12	Avon	136	6.5
13	6	Northamptonshire	127	6
14	3	East Wales	125	5
15	11	Devon	105	3

The individual performances on the qualifying weekend were as follows:

98 boards	x-imps
Nick Smith/Alan Wilson	53
Matthew Covill/Chris Wilson	10
Ian Angus/Tom Rainforth	-12
Jaak Kand/Priit Vohandu	-40

## Plan for 2026-27

There are no particular plans to change the procedures of the selection committee in 2026-27.

The selection committee:

Alan Wilson (chair)

Denis Talbot

Graham Orsmond

Mary-Ann Sheehy

Matthew Covill

Nigel Wilkes

8 June 2026