Chairman Report – October 2026

The OBA is running smoothly and I am indebted to the committee for their contribution, Stephen especially for his many roles keeping us in order.

There was another successful congress in August, the number of attendees grew at our airy venue. Well done to the organising team. Yet we continue to consider ways it could be improved. We listened to previous feedback, and a pre-booked packed lunch was offered.

In contrast the numbers at some county events have dwindled, so much so the Senior Pairs has fallen by the wayside, and the once highly regarded Harwell Cup is only attracting a handful of teams. Unless we can find a new generation of younger players, this trend will continue, and that side of our membership may have to look increasingly to national events. That's not to say that total number of active players or sessions has diminished, quite the contrary. The balance has been changing towards social bridge for some years and we want to embrace that. Further evidence for this is that Henley held another popular Cafe Bridge event recently.

There are funds available to promote bridge at all levels within the county. We welcome ideas or requests on how we might spend this money advancing bridge at all levels. So far this year we have received no requests for financial aid. Support for teaching is particularly important. We would like better ties with unaffiliated clubs, establish contacts between them so they can help each other. To advance these goals we need someone to lead the Publicity, Education, and Social team. I think it would be ideal if that person was from the social-bridge community.

Malcolm Currie

2026 November