

OXFORD JUNIOR BRIDGE CLUB

REPORT FOR THE OBA

AUTUMN 2015

The Oxford Junior Bridge Club continues to thrive and grow. This term we have five new children from both state and independent schools around the city and county. Frequently, we have 10 children learning mini-bridge and bidding and, following a meeting of volunteers, we now have a curriculum for the bidders, following the EBU book, *“Really Easy modern Acol.”*

After much debate, we re-structured our fees and now charge £5.00 per child with the first visit free of charge and a maximum of £10.00 per family of three or more children and adults. (Sometimes families start off together.)

Our ‘regulars’ continue to improve and on Sunday 1st November I took Max, Thomas and Jacob Potter and Aidan Saunders to Andrew Robson’s Club for a junior competition, with teams scoring, for ‘children still at school.’ Max and Thomas came a staggering 4th out of 10 pairs, ahead of two of the U15 internationals! They are aged 9 and 11 years and Jacob and Aidan (aged 8 and 10) came 8th. Henry Rose, aged 11, continues to attend training days for the U15 squad and Aleksander Lichkov has very kindly agreed to take Henry under his wing and do special sessions with him on Sunday afternoons, at the club, and to play online with him.

We are holding a junior competition at the **Oxford Bridge Club on Sunday 22nd November 2 – 5pm**. All are welcome and we will have three sections: mini-bridge, novice bidders and experienced bidders. The Trustees of the Oxford BC are very kindly giving us the premises free of charge.

This term we have started a bridge club at Headington Prep School run by Peter Sherry and Joan Bailles, with 10 signed up, and at Magdalen College School we have three tables run by Paul Walter. Bridge at Oxford Girls High continues to

thrive, ably run by Peter Finbow and Pauline Wyman, who usually have 4 tables and at the Dragon School, I run two sessions of six children beginners/intermediate and advanced. Rob Dixon has two tables at D'Overbroecks and Summerfields School runs a small club on Tuesday afternoons. We are hoping that these children might attend our Sunday club as the school (boarding) is five minutes walk away! Ludmilla Checkley runs beginner bridge sessions at St Clares, a Baccalaureate College for 16 years +.Therefore, there are well over 60 juniors learning bridge on a regular basis in North Oxford alone.

We could do with two more volunteers who could help me with the Oxford Junior Club. Those we have are wonderful and supportive but, in order to give the service we would like, we really need four adults on a Sunday afternoon and this can be a struggle!

Holly Kilpatrick
November 2015