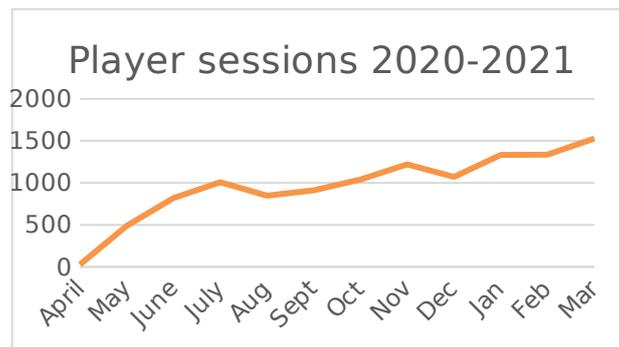


Bridge Committee report for the Annual Report for the year ending March 2021.

Following the closure of the club premises in March, bridge stopped completely, until a group of recent graduates from Oxford Bridge School took the initiative and started organising online sessions on Bridge Base Online (BBO) with simultaneous video conferencing. In May, OBC became a virtual club on BBO, and we were able to progressively increase the number of online sessions from then on; by the end of October we were running 7 sessions per week.

Overall numbers attending club sessions were lower than the previous year (11,633 versus 16,795 player sessions), but grew steadily as our provision increased. By January 2021 they were back to the same levels as January 2020.



RealBridge, offering built-in video and audio, became available towards the end of 2020. By the end of March we were running 4 sessions a week on BBO, 3 a week on RealBridge, and a monthly teams session on RealBridge.

In addition to our regular weekly sessions we also ran 5 series of a new online teams league, plus an online knockout competition, replacing our usual knockout rubber bridge competition (the Meltzer).

The club fielded 7 teams in the main Wessex League competition, with the A team winning Division 1, and 6 teams in the Daytime Wessex League. Three teams represented the club in the NICKO; additionally, we played a friendly teams match against Horsham Bridge Club.

The Bridge Committee as a whole met 5 times during the year. In addition to this various subgroups organising online bridge met 22 times, all via video conference.