

Report of Education Committee, April 2022

Current Membership: Sue Burge, Ursula Bowler, Steph Bliss, Jenny-Lee Economou, Ann Lee, Sheila Parry, Christine Bishop, Kathy Talbot, Anne Laming

Education is a core activity of OBC. Activities have been directed towards meeting the objectives in the OBC strategic plan “to strengthen the teaching of bridge (on-line and face-to-face), ensure we have excellent teachers and broaden the reach of the Oxford bridge school”. The committee has generally met quarterly using Zoom. A brainstorming meeting was held in January 2022 when plans for education were discussed. Attendees included some current students and trustees as well as members of the committee.

Despite the impact of the Covid pandemic, most lessons and seminars have continued. Five individuals have attended an EBU online teaching course (one free place, one self-funded and 3 paid for by the club). Bridge for All lessons for beginners (Year1) and improvers (Year 2) were provided both online and face-to-face. There are three terms, each lasting 10 weeks, and lessons are provided weekly. We lost one experienced teacher at the end of the year but recruited one new teacher so that classes were still covered. Around 70 students enrolled in September 2021, but numbers for the year 2 online classes were not sustained and unfortunately it was not financially viable to provide term 3 online. Feedback is collected regularly so that we can identify any areas for improvement and help teachers to develop their skills. There are currently around 50 students. Students are encouraged to become members of the club, and to attend gently duplicate games and to become involved in other voluntary roles within the club. Attendance at Learn and Play sessions has been disappointing - we generally have 2 or 3 tables. Saturday seminars have been either online or face-to-face depending on the preference of the teacher. A diverse programme has been offered and most seminars were fully booked.