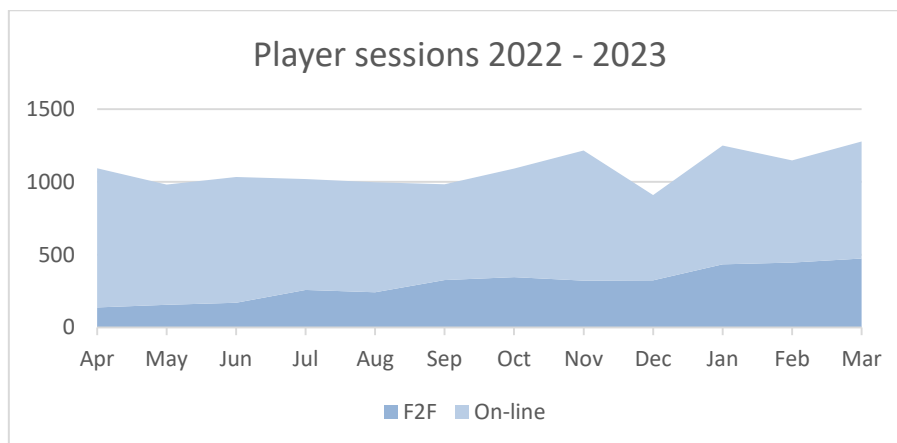


Bridge Committee report for the Annual Report for the year ending March 2023.

The year ending March 2023 was marked by a gradual reintroduction of face-to-face (F2F) bridge, with increasing numbers of players returning to the clubhouse; however, online bridge is still favoured by most of our members.

Overall numbers attending club sessions were very similar to the previous year (13,006 versus 13,100), but still considerably lower than before Covid (16,795 in 2019–2020).



Regular sessions: at the end of March we were running 7 regular sessions per week, plus 2 extra sessions per month on Friday evenings. The Friday morning hybrid session is the club's best attended session, regularly attracting 16-17 tables. The Tuesday morning hybrid session was converted to a F2F Gentle Duplicate in November and regularly attracts 8-10 tables. A new Tuesday afternoon online session was introduced in November – it has not been well attended. Wednesday evenings were switched gradually from online to F2F, starting with one session per month in July and increasing to all sessions by March, excluding 1st Wednesdays which is online teams. A new speedball session on Friday evenings initially attracted some interest, but this faded; the session was later converted to cross-Imp pairs. The Gentle Duplicate session on Thursday evenings was converted to a 9-High Pairs session in January.

Dealing: Cliff Pavelin stepped down as Dealing Coordinator after doing the job for more than 12 years. Many thanks to Cliff for all his hard work. Ron Gould is the new Dealing Coordinator.

Competitions and special events: we managed to run all of the club's annual competitions this year, for the first time since 2020. We also ran 8 ladder competitions and 6 simultaneous pairs events. John Deech very generously sponsored cash prizes and a trophy for a new competition in his name on 4th Wednesday evenings; this includes free refreshments and has been very well received.

Teams representing the club: we fielded 7 teams in the main Wessex League. The most notable performances were by the B and C teams who have won promotion to Division 1 for next season. Five teams represented us in the Daytime Wessex League. Three teams played in the NICKO.

The Bridge Committee met 6 times during the year, all via video conference.

Liza Furnival

28 May 2023