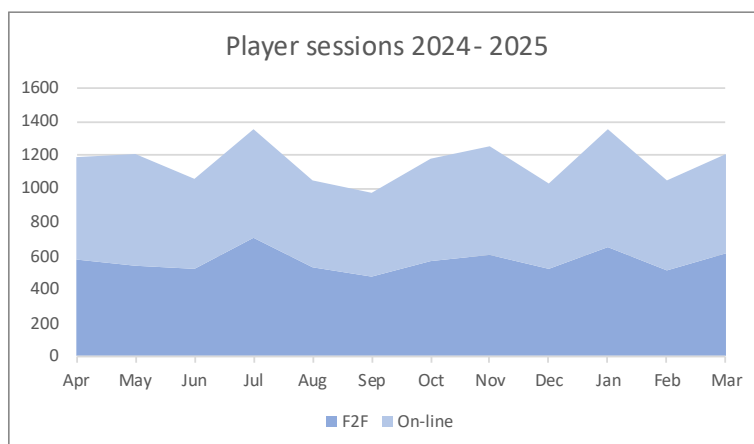


Bridge Committee report for the year ending March 2025

Overall numbers attending club sessions were slightly higher than the previous year (13924 versus 13,575), but still considerably lower than before Covid (16,795 in 2019–2020). Numbers of those playing face to face (F2F) have risen, while numbers playing online have tended downwards, such that online and F2F bridge are now nearly evenly split (51%:49%). This partly reflects the changes in session structure, with Wednesday evenings now fully F2F, and the online Wednesday morning Supervised Play being discontinued. These figures exclude Saturday afternoon Social Bridge, but include Supervised Play.



Regular sessions: we ran 6 regular sessions per week, plus 2 extra sessions per month on Friday evenings (this section excludes Supervised Play and Social Bridge which are run by Education). The Friday morning hybrid session continues to be the club's best attended session, attracting an average of 18 tables, with an approximate 60:40 split between online and F2F. The Tuesday morning Gentle Duplicate session is our best attended F2F session, attracting an average of 10 tables, with up to 12 at peak times; it is a very pleasant social session. Wednesday evenings are showing a small increase over the previous year and now average 7 tables per week, with the best attended session being the John Deech pairs on 4th Wednesdays. The Monday morning hybrid session averages 12 tables per week. The Thursday evening 9-High Pairs online session averages 6 tables per week. We continue to run a monthly F2F cross-Imp pairs session on 1st Friday evenings, and online teams on 3rd Friday evenings; both attract a small cohort of keen players.

Competitions and special events: all of the club's annual competitions were run successfully this year with the exception of the Rose Bowl (teams of four competition), which was cancelled as there weren't enough entries to make it viable. We introduced new trophies for the highest placed pairs with an NGS of under 10 in the Beck Salver (championship pairs) and Winnie Ling (mixed pairs) competitions. We also ran 8 ladder competitions, 7 simultaneous pairs events, 2 Pro-Am events, a blue-pointed Swiss pairs and a heat of the National Handicap Pairs. John Deech very generously continued to sponsor his eponymous competition on 4th Wednesday evenings; this includes cash prizes and free refreshments and is an enjoyable social session.

Teams representing the club: we fielded 6 teams in the main Wessex League, one fewer than last year. This was a good year for the club, with the A team winning Division 1 and thus qualifying to represent Oxfordshire in the Garden Cities competition, and the D team winning Division 3. Seven teams represented us in the Daytime Wessex League, one more than last year, with an Oxford team winning each division: Oxford Horspath won Division 1, Oxford Frideswide won Division 2, and Oxford Bodleian won Division 3, with Oxford Ashmolean as runner-up. Four teams represented the club in the NICKO, but none progressed further than the third round.

The Bridge Committee met twice during the year, via video conference.

Liza Furnival

June 2025