

Chairman's Report OBC 2025

This has been another successful year for the club with good attendance and a full programme. There are now opportunities to play in person at the club at differing levels every day of the week except Sundays (with the exception of occasional competitions). Playing online via RealBridge remains popular but only two sessions a week are entirely online. The Monday and Friday morning hybrid sessions attract the largest number of players, more of whom play online than in person.

On average, there are about 1150 attendances in the regular scheduled sessions. This excludes the Saturday social event.

A new "relaxed" bridge session has been introduced on Thursday evenings as a step between Supervised Play and Gentle Duplicate.

In addition to the annual competitions held in the club, many OBC players have also played a season of matches in the inter-club Wessex League, fielding 6 teams in evening league and 7 teams in the daytime league. Oxford A team won Division 1 so are the Wessex League champions this year- congratulations.

Education has had another successful year recruiting 74 new students into years 1 and 2 of the Bridge for All course, running several seminars and the very popular Andrew Robson teaching day. Sincere thanks and congratulations go to Ursula Bowler who leads the education team, as well as the teaching team headed by Christine and Ian Bishop.

In the past year we have introduced handicapped pairs for social events such as the Christmas and Summer parties to encourage a wider range of attendance. Prizes are awarded for less experienced players who do well on the evening. This helps introduce newer players to a wider range of players and these events have been well attended and convivial. There are also plans to run more Pro-Am pairs events to add variety and help players get to meet each other. We remain very grateful to John Deech who has continued for a 3rd year to support Wednesday evening bridge on the premises by donating to the provision of drinks and nibbles once a month.

Naturally, all this activity requires a great deal of organisation and support. Every session needs a director, a scorer and usually a host. The hands need to be dealt. Communications need to go out. The website must be updated. Schedules and timetables must be arranged. The club needs to be supplied with consumables, the premises need to be maintained and catering needs to be organised/provided for social occasions. Finances need to be managed. On behalf of all of us at the club, we express our gratitude to the large number of volunteers who donate their time and expertise for the benefit of the club.

I would, in particular, like to acknowledge the huge contribution that Martin Illingworth makes in directing and encouraging new directors and Liza Furnival who does so much behind the scenes organizing of bridge at the club.

Naturally, there will always be a need more volunteers to come forward to ensure our club is sustainable.

Trustee Board

The Trustee Board oversees the OBC as a Charitable Institution and the functions of the club and meets 4-5 times per year. 8 members are trustees by virtue of the offices held (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament Secretary, Education Secretary, Premises Officer, Communications Officer, Conduct Officer -all elected/re-elected annually at the AGM) and there are 4 directly elected trustees (DET) without any defined responsibilities other than those of a trustee, who stand down after 4 years. In the past year, John Briggs kindly took over as Premises Officer, a position vacant at the last AGM and many thanks go to him on this account. Diana Cannon also agreed to be coopted to a vacant DET position.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their commitment and diligence in ensuring the club runs smoothly, in particular, Peter Schroeder as Treasurer, for his competent command of the OBC finances.

I would like to congratulate all those who have won in the club's various competitions over the past year and all those who continue to improve or simply just enjoy their game.

Julie Anderson, Chairman, June 2025