

Report of Education Committee, April 2026:

Committee members: Ursula Bowler (Chair), Kathy Talbot, Pat Lewis, Jane van der Ploeg, Pam Parsons. The committee meets bimonthly using Zoom.

Education continues to be a core activity of OBC. Activities have been directed towards meeting the objectives in the OBC strategic plan “to strengthen the teaching of Bridge, ensure we have excellent teachers and broaden the reach of Oxford Bridge School”. Four Taster Sessions are offered prior to the start of the Bridge for All beginners course, which is run for beginners (Year1) and improvers (Year 2) these are provided face-to-face. There are three terms, each consisting of 10 weekly lessons. Around 104 students enrolled in October 2025. There has been a drop off in numbers as the year has progressed but this seems standard. Free membership of the club is given to BfA students. They are encouraged to attend Supervised Play on Thursday evenings, and the Gentle Duplicate, of which there are three sessions each week, these are aimed at players with an NGS below 7. An annual competition is run in May for novices for which a cup is awarded at the AGM. Encouragement is also given to become involved in other voluntary roles within the club. The Saturday Social bridge is a session for anyone wishing for a more casual game or to build confidence in their play and for people returning to Bridge after a break. It has been well supported and enjoyed.

Speakers have included a day with Andrew Robson, a 2/1, 5 card Majors course with Peter Litchfield and several sessions on Revision and Consolidation with Kathy Talbot who have enlightened and entertained us on their specialist areas. This has been another good year for Education, and has continued to provide an annual contribution to OBC.

Ursula Bowler

Education Manager

27th June 2026