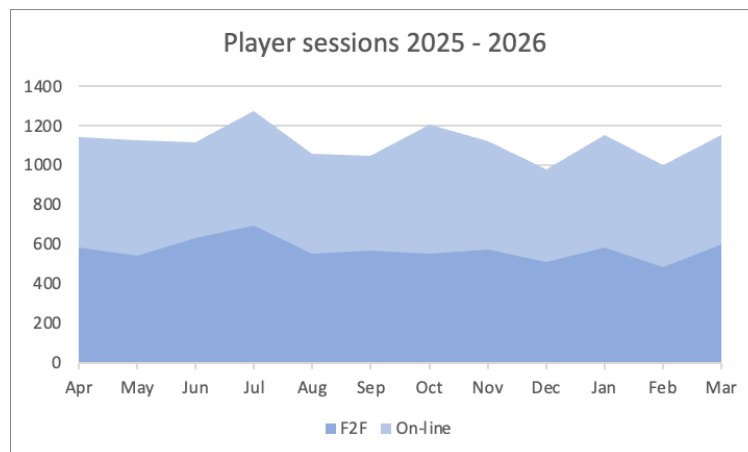


Bridge Committee report for the year ending March 2026

Overall numbers attending club sessions were 4% lower than the previous year (13379 versus 13,924), and considerably lower than before Covid (16,795 in 2019–2020), reflecting a particularly weak 1Q 2026 where numbers were 9% lower than in 1Q 2025. Numbers of those playing face to face (F2F) have risen marginally, while numbers playing online have dropped, such that online and F2F bridge are now split (49%:51%). These figures exclude Saturday afternoon Social Bridge, but include Supervised Play.



Regular sessions: we ran six regular sessions per week, increasing to seven in September when we introduced a new F2F Gentle Duplicate session on Thursday evenings; this attracted around 4 tables and will hopefully grow over time. Additionally, we continue to run a monthly online teams session on third Friday evenings. The F2F cross-Imp pairs session on first Friday evenings was discontinued in March due to lack of support. The Friday morning hybrid session continues to be the club's best attended session, attracting an average of 16 tables, which is again a slight drop on the previous year. The online:F2F split remains at approximately 60%:40%. The Tuesday morning Gentle Duplicate session is our best attended F2F session, attracting an average of 10 tables, reaching 14 at its peak; 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 fourth Wednesdays. The Monday morning hybrid session averages 13 tables per week, a slight increase on the previous year. The Thursday evening Jack-High Pairs online session averages 6 tables per week similar to the previous year. The Wednesday afternoon GD online session proved less popular than previously attracting an average of 7 tables per week. This section excludes Supervised Play and Social Bridge which are run by Education.

Competitions and special events: all of the club's annual competitions were run successfully this year with the exception of the Swiss Teams competition, which is being discontinued for the time being. It will be reintroduced if/when numbers playing in the Wednesday evening teams improve. We also ran 7 ladder competitions, 4 simultaneous pairs events, 3 Pro-Am events 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 a popular social session.

Teams representing the club: we fielded 6 teams in the main Wessex League. 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 C team earning promotion to Division 1. In the daytime league, OBC teams dominated Division 1, with the Frideswide team finishing 1st, the Horspath team 2nd and

the Blue team 4th out of a total of eight teams. The Bodleian team won Division 2 and will be promoted to Division 1 next season.

The Bridge Committee met three times during the year, via Zoom.

Liza Furnival

July 2026