

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB

Dealing Report 2014-15

In the club year 2014-15 the dealing team dealt:

136 single 26-board sets

69 32-board sets

83 dual 26-board sets

This comes to 371 cases, a bit over 10000 hands. This does not include dealing for 'specials' like Sims events or Wessex League.

There is a rota of six each taking a different part of the month:

Linda Kimber/Kay Bicknell (work as a pair)

Marion Sheppard/Sue Smith (work as a pair)

Sally Wills

Peter Stevenson

Liza Furnival

Peter Litchfield

In addition I deal when we are running short (once or twice a month), generate the hands, deal sims and look after printer consumables, software etc.

There are times when we are just keeping up, and we should not introduce even more events (e.g. Tuesday evenings) until we have found and trained another dealer. This is not easy; dealers have to be meticulous and technically competent to deal with the various problems that can arise. All of us have made mistakes at some time - on at least two occasions the same set of hands were played twice. Frequent carelessness by directors' not signing off used sets does not help. Efforts to find new volunteers to join the team are not usually successful. Of course we can simply accept that sometimes suitable sets will not be available and we will go back to hand-dealing.

More events now use dual sets in Web Mitchell movements. It is obviously fairer if all players have played the same set of boards (thus maximising the number of times each board is played) but the advantage is marginal when there are less than 14 tables, very few members could care less, and given the extra dealing load we should define more carefully when web Mitchell movements are used.

Related to this is the waste of a great deal of paper; historically dual sets were used only for well attended evening events and we print 25 hand copies for dual sets. When used, for example, on Tuesday mornings, nearly all these copies end up in the bin. Ideally we would have a print-on-demand system but this would put more load on either the scorer or director. The hands are always accessible on the web-site so perhaps we should simply print half a dozen copies for the director to make available to people wishing to stay behind afterwards to talk about the hands.

Changing cards is time consuming; normally dealers do it only when the cards are getting so bad that the machine rejects them. Complaints from club members about the state of cards are quite frequent – I usually ask the complainant if they would like to volunteer to take responsibility for changing them. They never do. We need someone whose sole responsibility is checking the state of cards and organising the changing when necessary.