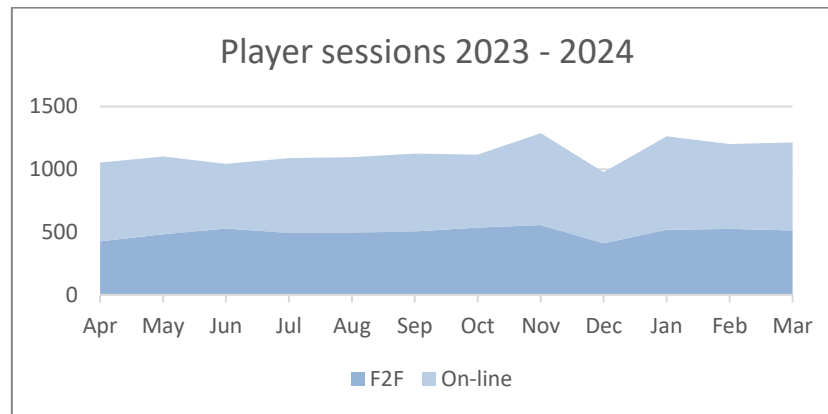


Bridge Committee report for the year ending March 2024

Overall numbers attending club sessions were a little higher than the previous year (13,575 versus 13,006), but still considerably lower than before Covid (16,795 in 2019–2020). Numbers of those playing face to face rose slightly and then plateaued, while numbers playing online have remained relatively steady. Online bridge continues to be favoured by most of our members.



Regular sessions: at the end of March we were running 6 regular sessions per week, plus 2 extra sessions per month on Friday evenings. The Friday morning hybrid session is the club's best attended session, attracting an average of nearly 18 tables, with an approximate 60:40 split between online and F2F. The Tuesday morning Gentle Duplicate session is our best attended F2F session, regularly attracting 9-10 tables, with up to 12 at peak times; it is a very pleasant social session. Wednesday evenings continue F2F, except for the teams on 1st Wednesdays which stayed online until March; it averages about 6 tables per week. Monday mornings became a hybrid session in April, with the newly introduced F2F section making a slow start, averaging 3.5 tables, and the pre-existing online section averaging another 8.5 tables. The Thursday evening 9-High Pairs online session averages about 6.5 tables per week. A Tuesday afternoon online session introduced in November 2022 failed to attract enough support and was discontinued in June 2023. 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 again this year. In addition we ran 8 ladder competitions, 6 simultaneous pairs events and a heat of the national 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 very enjoyable session.

Teams representing the club: we fielded 7 teams in the main Wessex League. This wasn't a particular successful season for the club, with the most notable performance coming from the A team, which came second in Division 1. Six teams represented us in the Daytime Wessex League, with 3 of them winning their respective divisions: Oxford Blue won Division 1, Oxford Horspath won Division 2, and Oxford Isis won Division 3. Four teams represented the club in the NICKO; the D team had a very good run, reaching the 5th round before being knocked out.

The Bridge Committee met 4 times during the year, all via video conference.

Liza Furnival

June 2024