

Report of Education Committee, April 2024:

Committee members: Ursula Bowler, Kathy Talbot, Anne Laming, Sarah Conway, Pat Lewis, Jane van der Ploeg. The committee meets bimonthly using Zoom. Education is a core activity of OBC. Activities have been directed towards meeting the objectives in the OBC strategic plan “to strengthen the teaching of Bridge (on-line and face-to-face), ensure we have excellent teachers and broaden the reach of Oxford Bridge School”. Bridge for All lessons for beginners (Year1) and improvers (Year 2) have been provided face-to-face. There are three terms, each consisting of 10 weekly lessons. Around 92 students enrolled in September 2023. There has been a drop off in numbers as the year has progressed but this has been less than in previous years. Feedback is collected after each term so that we can identify any areas for improvement and help teachers to develop their skills. There are currently around 70 students. Free membership of the club is given to BfA students. They are encouraged to attend Supervised Play and Gentle Duplicate, two of each sessions are run weekly, and to become involved in other voluntary roles within the club. Attendance at Supervised Play sessions has remained consistent throughout this year. The Saturday Social bridge has replaced Next Steps. It is a social session for students to build confidence in their play and for people returning to Bridge after a break. It has been well supported and enjoyed. Speakers at Saturday Seminars have included Andrew Robson, Charlie Bucknell and Robert Procter who have enlightened and entertained us on various topics. This has been an exceptionally good year for Education, it has doubled its anticipated annual contribution to OBC.

Ursula Bowler
Education Manager
11th June 2024