

# Bagworth Whistlestop Bridge

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report June 2021/22



### Chairman's Welcome

At last, we are to meet again at a Face to Face AGM. Marvellous! We have had a start, a stop, and a start again in the last 12 months but we have stuttered our way to attending thriving Thursday F2F sessions. Throughout the uncertainty, Shelagh has yet again kept us informed and entertained with her wonderful newsletters. As in the previous 12 months BBO and Realbridge have enabled us to keep playing bridge and to keep us all connected, ready to venture out again when the opportunity arose. Our technical skills have improved, and our brains have kept working, albeit not necessarily brilliantly.

Happily, most of us have come through the lockdowns and restrictions relatively unscathed. However, some of our group have faced some challenging issues, so well done to them for dealing with difficult times and welcome back. Many of you have succumbed to the dreaded Covid, often acquired while away on a jolly, but all seem to have coped well and have made good recoveries.

On our return to the Community Centre on 15th September last year, we moved into the rear hall to enable us to keep our distance. Every effort was made to ensure the safety of our members and we went along swimmingly until further restrictions were introduced before Christmas and we sadly had our final session on December 9th. No Christmas 'Do'! No Partygate for us! We made yet another start on 24th February, this time in the front hall, the rear hall having been taken over by a preschool group. The new accommodation has worked well, and we are becoming well established. We have welcomed new members and a return to the fold of some former members

Shelagh and I finally managed to run the Improvers session first offered more than 2 years ago. We appraised a group of 10 on

the joys of Weak 2s and some other useful bits and bobs. All our heads were spinning by the end of the Improvers' Day but we it was all very enjoyable. Shelagh and I promise to stick to the guidelines taught on the day for a week or so at least.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your support during the whole of this pandemic. Many clubs are struggling to get members back but we have lost few members as a result of it, but, of course, we know our members are made of strong stuff. I would also like to congratulate you on your response to the Ukraine appeal earlier this year when £700 was raised! That is an amazing sum for such a small club, well done all

This is my last AGM as Chair. It is not a comfortable for role for me and it was probably a case of "no-one else wants to do it" at the time. However, we have emerged successfully from very trying times as a direct result of the hard work and dedication of your committee members, Shelagh, John, Roger and Anne. I thank them wholeheartedly for the support they have unstintingly given. I would also like to thank Marilyn who not only runs the raffle but has stepped in to assist John with his treasurer duties while he deals with some health issues. They are a brilliant team. Margaret and Steve Fieldhouse for many months acted as hosts on our BBO Thursday afternoon sessions, to avoid the dreaded robots and on occasion happily stepped in to play when someone lost connection, Thank you both. Finally, I would like to mention Simon with his help in the BBVA Realbridge sessions (which are still taking place on Monday evenings) and his help with our Bridgetab system, which I desperately need. He has also agreed to help with directing. Many thanks

This is beginning to sound like an Oscar speech, sorry about that. I just want to say that despite my reservations, it has been a privilege to undertake this role and I wish my successor very good luck, you will have a magnificent team.

## **Review of the Year**

**Our Bridge** : Well, Carol, is quite right we have stuttered our way through the last year with Face to Face sessions, RealBridge sessions and Bridge Base Online sessions, the latter with the support of Ashby Bridge Club. The best news is that we have certainly doubled our participation levels, chiefly through our online ventures. And, the even better news is that you have returned in numbers to Face to Face Bridge. We have been pleased to welcome George and Andy; Mary and Janet; Janet and Wendy; Pat and Terry and last but not least Dave Wenham to the club. Sadly, we have lost some members with either ill health or difficulty in making the sessions. However, we hope to bring in new members by offering bridge tuition for a beginners programme in September.

Our Monday evening sessions on RealBridge via BBVA – Bagworth/Bosworth Virtual Alliance is doing well and obviously fulfills a need. We are drawing in players from different clubs including Ashby, The County and Loughborough and usually get six tables. No membership is charged as we are not a club but do get in table money. This brings in a little money but we

are really only trying to cover the fee costs of RealBridge and we share any profit equally between Bosworth and ourselves.

This year we are offering a competition with a trophy 'The Jubilee Cup' for random pairs and we shall introduce a knock out competition for 22/23 for the first time.

The 70%+ average – yes, we still have it and have had some great scores with the weird deals that our dealing machine as well as online manage to come up with! Some partnerships coped with amazing success to gain average scores of over 70%. They get a mention in dispatches on the website and a free week in face to face bridge!

Whilst playing on BBO we had the facility via the Ashby Club to achieve the English Bridge Union master points. This involves a payment of 56p to the EBU and County Bridge Association. Most of our members are already EBU members and have access to their resources. Whilst we have previously voted against joining the EBU because of the costs and the risk of impact on the friendliness of the club, we always bring this up for further consideration at the AGM so we shall be voting on this.




**Committee** : Your committee of five : Carol, John, Shelagh, Roger and Anne have met four times during the year for virtual meetings via zoom and the minutes are in the members area of the web site under documents. A 'Whats App' group has been formed by them for exchange of ideas and subsequent actions agreed both through the meetings and Whats App discussions. Much time was spent in keeping pace with Covid legislation masks or not, refreshments or not, social distancing etc. Roger as our Health and Safety lead was kept busy! Additionally, we acquired our dealing machine and we now have several committee members who can do this on a rotational basis. It's been fun sorting this out! Roger kindly donated an old laptop to travel with the dealing machine so it's all quite straight forward now.

Four of the committee members, Anne, John, Shelagh and Roger have agreed to continue in their current role but Carol, as Chair has completed her three year cycle and in line with our constitution. However, we shall not be losing her expertise as she has agreed to remain on the committee, looking after the directing and sorting premises. This means that we need to elect a new chair person and a new committee member to look at social events refreshments etc. Nominations have been received so please come along to the AGM and vote.



**Members :** Our membership figures remain at 40+ but it is composed of different people. We have been pleased to welcome some players from different clubs along with some able players who just joined us living locally and we have lost some. The reasons for their leaving are many and varied.... some withdrew from bridge altogether or find the prospect of returning to face to face bridge daunting after covid, some for health reasons or transport difficulties.

With the current membership fee of £10.00 p.a. , the committee are proposing a reduction of this to £5.00 per annum. The extra charge over the last four years was to help to purchase equipment and we always agreed to review this. We believe that the time is right to make the change. Our online sessions, currently on RealBridge only, have been made viable with support from other club's players and we are most appreciative of them but do not charge membership as this is purely a playing platform, open to all following payment of table fees.

At the AGM, we shall ask you to vote on the subscription rates and the table fees 

**Venue :** The committee have maintained links with the Bagworth Community Centre where ever possible but the absence of a centre administrator for most of the year has made things difficult along with the covid closures. However, we benefitted from the use of the rear hall until the pre-school group started after Christmas. Storage we are told will continue to be a problem although we have been promised a cupboard for our things and we think this is now becoming available. We have asked for the centre's risk assessment but nothing has materialised as yet and checked on heating arrangements which are not great but manageable.

**Equipment :** Our biggest purchase has been the new dealing machine. This was secured with the aid of the Parish and Community fund where we were successful in our grant application. We arranged the launch event and postponed it at least three times as Covid requirements changed. However, we were pleased to welcome Councillor Martin Cartwright. He did us proud with quite a long speech and he was fascinated with the machine. You did us proud too with a great attendance. We purchased additional boards so that we could deal four weeks of boards at a time and thanks to Roger we have a laptop which is set up to link with the dealing machine. We try to keep pace with extra equipment to stay ahead of the number of players and so have purchased an extra table, set of bidding boxes and two additional scoring tablets

## Financial Report Year to 31stMay 2021/2

<u>Income</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019/ 2020</u>	<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
B/Fwd	<b>£481.69</b>	<b>£ 481.69</b>	<b>£1,086.10</b>	<b>£358.68</b>
Subscriptions		£ 400.00	£00.00	390.00
Table monies -		£1,565.00	£848.06	1096.50
Raffle		£ 637.00		582.00
Teaching		£ 140.00	£00.00	£00.00
Donation T. Capewell		£ 500.00	£00.00	£00.00
Council Grant			£1,336.54	£00.00
Ukraine Donation from members				500.00
Donation B.Vos				100.00
Donation J and M Morris				30.00
BBO via Ashby BC				373.20
BBVA				691.98
Mince pies, brought back J and MM				12.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 481.69</b>	<b>£ 3,723.69</b>	<b>£3,270.70</b>	<b>£4135.26</b>
 <b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Rent for room		£ 615.00	£00.00	600.00
Insurance/EBTU subscription		£ 102.68	£45.00	£104.92
Flowers – MF			£ 22.00	£00.00
Flowers – JB			£ 14.00	£00.00
Tea/coffee /Bisc etc		£ 32.48	£00.00	78.37

Computer	£ 429.99	£00.00	£00.00
Bridge Tablets (including all equipment purchases)	£ 721.92	£00.00	640.36
Bridge Tablet covers	£ 71.35		
Bidding boxes	£ 30.30		
Table Numbers 1 – 15 red	£ 9.60		
Table	£ 111.59		
Playing cards	£ 36.00		
Boards	£ 69.90		
Bridge Webs plus bridge tab support	£ 42.00	£ 42.00	142.00
Annual Party	£ 83.87	£00.00	£00.00
Raffle prizes	£ 259.01	£00.00	238.00
90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Flowers/ trophy	£ 21.90		
Jubilee Trophy			86.98
Covid Sanitation goods			51.18
Birthday gifts			62.49
Bank Charges			27.69
Ukrainian Donation			700.00
Member Refund (MG)			10.00
Duplimate Dealing Machine 1 <sup>st</sup> install		£1,336.54	
Duplimate Dealing Machine 2 <sup>nd</sup> install		£ 1,336.54	
Duplimate (cards, boards,labels)		£ 115.94	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2,637.59</b>	<b>£ 2,912.02</b>	<b>£2741.99</b>

**Closing figure for year ending June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 = £1,394.27**

This figure is correct with HSBC bank account going forward to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> May2023

**Assets as of the 31 May 2022**

8No Gopak Tables

1No. Plastic Table

9No. Tablecloths

4No. set of Boards (4 x 24)

10No. Bridge Tablets

1No. Computer

1No Computer for dealing machine (gifted)

1No Duplimate MK 5 Dealing Machine

3 Carry Board bags

1 board carry case (gifted)

**Miscellaneous items include**

Table Numbers

Playing Cards

Screen pens for Tablets



## Treasurers Comments

2021/22 financially has been a very successful year considering the breaks in face to face bridge due to Covid. Our main sources of income are:

- Table fees, currently at £2.00 per session and generating 1091.50 in 21/2 although we expect this to increase in 22/23 assuming that Face to Face bridge is not interrupted again;
- Online bridge via BBO accessed via support from Ashby generating £373.20 which we do not anticipate in 22/23 assuming Face to Face bridge continues
- Online Bridge via Real Bridge via the Bagworth and Bosworth Virtual Alliance generating £691.98
- The weekly raffle generating a profit of £349.00 as well as some fun!
- Membership fees have generated an income of £390, currently £10.00p.a. However, we are proposing a reduction in this to £5.00 p.a so we can expect the income from

this to be around £200 in 22/23.



The club had been able to afford the purchase additional equipment to keep pace with membership and playing needs as outlined in the section above. Our primary financial objective for 2021/2 was to build a more secure financial base and we have achieved this as can be seen in the carry forward line of nearly £1400 into 22/3 in comparison to the £398 the previous year.

2021/2 has seen the introduction of online payments which has been very successful and easy to manage so thanks to you all, our members. Some people are unable to do this and we will take cash or cheque from them. However, this incurs an extra transaction charge from the banks now. We try to minimise this by reducing the number of bank visits we have still incurred an additional charge for 21/22 of £27.69.

The pattern of our finances looks a little inconsistent in the last three years as we purchase equipment to get ourselves established and with the frequent interruption via Covid. We are looking for more consistency in 22/23 but we are sure you are pleased to see that we are in a strong position financially to carry our club forward. We shall be able to meet all planned expenditure and costs arising from room rental, insurances, licences, refreshments etc. We make special thanks to our auditor Richard Chantler who kindly audited our accounts quickly and efficiently

## Comments from Auditor



The auditor, stated that the statement of accounts were correct and were very satisfactory



## **Bagworth Whistlestop Bridge Group Mission**

***Our mission is to share and spread the game of bridge to local people for their enjoyment, health and well being in a friendly, safe and comfortable environment***

### **Principles / Aims**

- ❑ To establish a local bridge group playing duplicate bridge for members' health and well-being and their enjoyment.
- ❑ To create a setting for social but challenging bridge and with a friendly and convivial atmosphere.
- ❑ To work alongside and with other clubs for their enhancement and not to their detriment to broaden the range of bridge playing opportunities available.
- ❑ To build resources to enable an excellent as well as a self-sufficient playing environment
- ❑ To promote the group to other clubs and the wider bridge playing and non-bridge playing community.
- ❑ To draw in grants to build resources for the club.

### **Planning Proposals for 2021-22**

1. To recommence 'face to face' bridge as soon as it is safe and legal to do so.
2. To maximise the confidence of players returning to play 'face to face' bridge by adherence to general covid secure principles and those of the Community Centre by updating our risk assessment and consulting with members.
3. To build a more secure financial base to ensure adequate funds for equipment replacement by maintaining and extending current participation levels.
4. To use and demonstrate the use of the new dealing machine and hold a celebratory event to mark the grant from Hinckley and Bosworth.
5. To deliver the planning improvers programme.
6. To deliver a 'beginners' bridge programme using a combination of online and face to face learning.
7. To maintain the friendly and sociable atmosphere in the club by holding social events eg Christmas party, celebratory return to bridge party
8. Research the viability of an online session of bridge as well as our regular Thursday face to face session and if feasible implement.

## **How did we do?**

Planning and Performance Review against 2021-22 targets.

Well, in the scheme of things probably not that badly as we moved from online bridge, then to face to face, then to online only and then to face to face and online. People generally felt confident and comfortable as we returned to face-to-face bridge with all the precautions undertaken. We have more people able to set up for a face-to-face session, we have a rota for the dealing machine. We have completed the improvers programme and we have brought more people up to speed with online play. We did check out with you the feasibility of an additional online session which we now currently enjoy on a Monday evening. We have set up one club competition the random pairs and will follow this up by a knockout competition. We have completely failed in developing social activities, there was no Christmas Partygate in Bagworth. However, thanks to you all we enjoy a sociable and convivial atmosphere in our playing sessions.

We were also unable to provide a beginner's programme We have maintained our links with press and the voluntary sector via regular press releases to profile the club.

## **Plans for 2022/3**

1. To increase our membership base by providing a beginner's programme
2. To improve playing standards at the table by highlighting correct procedures eg alert and announcement.
3. To extend the competitions by developing a 'Knock out' programme
4. To expand our social activities
5. To profile the club amongst other voluntary sector organisations
6. To maintain a healthy financial profile
7. To secure additional equipment as need arises
8. To raise standards of play for our existing players by providing some further Improvers workshops
9. To review the scoring system using bridgetabs with other options suitable for our tablets and website