

# Bagworth Whistlestop Bridge

## Annual Report 2022-2023



### Welcome from the Chair

What a full and active year we have enjoyed at the Club. New players, returning members, a new competition - the Knockout - and a great social event taking place, the Swiss Teams when players from other local clubs joined us for an afternoon of bridge, fun and good food.

Your committee has worked with energy and enthusiasm in discussing, planning, and organising all that the Club offers. And so many different members help too in a variety of ways - setting up, putting away, Andy who directs from time to time, Marilyn who washes the bridge cloths every few months, George and Simon with the Swiss Teams Event (more on that later), Janet who brings the milk when Mary is away, those who assist with the washing up, Steve who managed the knockout cup - to you all, a very big thank you. And then, of course there are the marshmallows kindly brought by Marilyn and John each week. You make such a difference for the benefit of all - thank you to you all.

The Club is in good hands and provides pleasure and fun for its growing membership.

And, we are only five years old! Yes, you might want to look at the website which tells the story of our first four years of activity. We need your thoughts and energy as to the future growth and development. What other little difference can you make/suggest to enrich the Club? Please do put forward your thoughts and ideas.

### Review of the Year

**Our Bridge** : 2022-2023 is the first complete full year of uninterrupted bridge that we have had in 3 years. Thanks to you all, we are bucking the trend of most bridge clubs where there has been reduced participation since covid. Amazing! And the other thing you do is tell us if you are going to be away or without a partner. This all helps the director to manage the session.

Five years ago when we first started we had about 4/5 tables each week and used the meeting room. The move into the larger hall was done to meet covid requirements but now we are starting to fully occupy the hall with 7/8 tables meeting each week on a Thursday afternoon.. This does mean, of course that we have to buy more equipment to meet increased demand and we try always to keep one step ahead of this. Having more players in face to face bridge enhances the sociable atmosphere and benefits other users, for example the café.

As well as face to face bridge we also offer our Monday evening sessions on RealBridge via BBVA – Bagworth/Bosworth Virtual Alliance. We have offered 50 sessions. Tables have been 5/6 in the winter but have dropped a little more recently. We were sad to lose one of our participants, Krystyna Krzeczowska after an accidental fall. No membership is charged for BBVA as we are not a club but do get in table money which this year has been just over £400.00. Thanks to Simon and Shelagh who organise this session.

This is the second year we have offered a competition for 'The Jubilee Cup' for random pairs which was won by George Strang and Diana Light. We introduced a second competition for the 'knockout plate' ably managed by Steve Fieldhouse and won by George Strang and Andy Brown. The trophies will be presented at our AGM.

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! Those gaining 70%+ this year have been...Betty, Belinda, Marilyn, Simon, Nigel, Graham, George and Andy. Top scores are with Belinda and, George and Andy with 73.33% Well done all!

**Committee** : Your committee of six : Carol, John, Shelagh, Roger, Mary and Anne have met four times during the year for virtual meetings via zoom which seems to be the norm now. Usually a newsletter follows the committee meeting to update members and these are shown on the website. The year has gone smoothly from the committee's perspective and we have been pleased to offer more social events, thanks to Mary joining the team. The Christmas party was great fun with delicious food and a real party atmosphere and the bridge was both fun and well organised by Carol. The Swiss teams event brought more people into the Bagworth club and we have been pleased to welcome others from neighbouring clubs. We had 10 full tables and a cracking afternoon tea. The tech worked brilliantly with thanks to Simon and George. Feedback was very positive and we expect it to be an annual event! Much of the year has been spent in organising these events plus the purchase of new equipment and locating storage provision at the centre.

Five of the current committee members, Carol, John, Shelagh, Mary and Roger have agreed to continue in their current role but sadly we are losing our chair, Anne from the committee. However, we are most anxious to attract at least one other member to the

team as next year both Shelagh and John have to step down in line with the constitution as they have held their positions for five years. We hope that the new committee member might be able to take up one of these roles when they finish in 2024 and have the opportunity of being trained up. Nomination forms are available on the website and will be sent to members so please come along to the AGM and vote.

**Members :** We have some 50 members in the club and if you are busy doing the sums and think we should have had 50 X £5.00 shown in the financial statement it doesn't quite work as we have had a number of late joiners during the year and we have not charged for the few weeks left. We reduce the fee to £2.50 in February anyway. You will be asked to vote on the proposed membership fee for 23/24 at the AGM so come along and vote!



We are so pleased to hear of how our members meet each other outside our Thursday afternoons arranging social bridge, outings, meals out, dog walking and holidays.

There has been quite a bit of illness and hospital visits for our members this year but members are coming through it. Often this is helped by the many cruises and bridge holidays!! We try to remember all birthdays throughout the year and send an e card as long as you tell us your birthday date!! Sadly Carol missed hers on a Thursday because of ill health but the video of you all singing Happy Birthday to her is still available and gives much pleasure!

**Venue :** The committee have maintained links with the Bagworth Community Centre and this year its been open all year. We have continued playing every Thursday except over Christmas where we took a two week break but still managed to offer 51 sessions with thanks to Carol who managed 90% of them. Storage continues to be a bit of a problem but good liaison with the cleaning staff and the café tends to give positive action. Again, thanks to Carol who organises this and thanks to you for your support of the café in purchasing lunches and coffees etc.

**Equipment :** Our plan was to keep ahead of a growing membership in terms of the purchase of equipment and we are ahead of the game with additional tables, bidding boxes, boards, tablets and a projector purchased. During our stocktake it was felt that additional insurance should be secured to meet its replacement value which has been done. This is further outlined in the financial statement.

**Training :** We publicised our learners programme and provided 24 weeks of training for beginners who all purchased the EBU book and became EBU members. All but one finished the course and 6 have subsequently joined the club and are playing either socially, joining the supervised play or joining in the duplicate sessions. All attended regularly except for their holiday periods, so a great success. We have also participated in online training for

bridge teachers to use RealBridge and to use bridge composer to prepare hands. More will be offered in 2023/4

## Financial Statement 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022-31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

<b>INCOME</b>	2020/2021 (covid)		2021/2022	2022/2023
B/Fwd	£1086.10		£358.68	£1,394.27
Membership Monies			£390	£195
Table Fees	£848.06		£1096.50	£2930.00
Raffle			£582.00	£1126.00
Council Grant	£1,336.54			
Ukraine Donation				
Members			£500.00	
Turkish Earthquake Disaster				£240
Donation			£100	
Donation J and M Morris			£30.00	
BBO via Ashby			£373.20	
BBVA			£691.98	£401.47
Mince Pie credit			£12.90	
Insurance Payback				£71.92
Donation C.Owen				£5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3270.70</b>		<b>£4136.26</b>	<b>£6,363.66</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Room Hire			£600.00	£1,365.00
Insurance/Teaching	£45.00		£104.92	£164.84
Birthday Flower Gifts	£36.00			£73.00
Tea/Coffee, biscuits			£78.37	£169.03
Bridgewebs	£42.00		£142.00	£48.00
Raffle Prizes			£238.00	£499.16
Jubilee Trophy			£86.98	
KO Trophy and engraving				£88.80
Sanitation (covid)			£51.18	
Birthday gifts & retiring chair			£62.49	
Bank charges			£27.69	£68.39
Ukraine donation + members			£700.00	
Turkish Earthquake Disaster				£240.00
Refund M. Gwinutt			£10.00	
Duplimate dealing machine	£1336.54			
Duplimate dealing machine	£1336.54			
Duplimate cards	£115.94			
Equipment etc,cards				£1749.74
Advertising leaflet				£44.00
Teaching Book EBTA				£212.50

<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£2912.02</b>		<b>£2741.99</b>		<b>£4,722.46</b>
Monies carried forward	21/22>	£358.68	22/23>	£2741.99	23/24>	£1641.20
Closing Figure for year 1.6.22-31.5.23						£1641.20
<b>This figure is correct with HSBC bank account going forward to June 1st 2023</b>						<b>£1641.20</b>

### Treasurer's Comments

2022/23 financially has been the best year so far for the Bridge Club. The Club has grown from strength to strength and may it long continue. In line with its plans the club has managed to purchase more equipment costing over £1700 to keep up with the growing membership. A more detailed breakdown is given below

Convention Cards	£ 32.50
Beginners System Cards	£ 25.00
Paper/ Plastic wallets/keys cut	£ 3 5.16
New Boards	£ 131.30
Boards Bags	£ 36.00
Coat rail + Hangers	£ 54.48
2no. Gopak tables	£ 287.98
1No. Flip Chart	£ 115.00
5No pads for flip chart	£ 30.99
2 lenovo tablets+ cases	£ 234.97
2 raffle books	£ 5.70
1no. Projector	£ 468.00
200 packs playing cards	<u>£ 292.66</u>
Total	£1,749.74

The cashless payments are working well with invoices sent out monthly although a few still prefer to pay in cash but this also is working well, despite our bank charges doubling. However, comparison between the current year and that of the two previous years is difficult as they were partial years due to covid.

The raffle has exceeded all expectations and this year has made a profit of £626.84. It is a useful source on income for the club without which we would have to return the membership fee to the

previous level of £10.00 to make up for the loss of income. We know that not all drink alcohol and a cash prize of £10.00 is available instead. There is a leader board of raffle prize winners and it is pleasing to see that it has been spread across 27 members over the year so you have a good chance of winning!!

### **Assets as of the 31 May 2023**

10 No Gopak Tables

1No. Plastic Table

12No. Table cloths ( incl green ones)

1 No Flip cart stand on wheels

6No. sets of Boards

6 No board bags

12No. Bridge Tablets & cases

1No. Acer Computer

1No computer gifted by RG for use with dealing machine

1No Duplimate MK 5 Dealing Machine

1No coat rail and hangers

1No projector

Plastic Table Numbers

200 new packs of Playing Cards

Screen pens for Tablets

The asset value of the club's equipment has recently been valued and insured for a replacement value of £8,000.00 and so our insurance expenditure has increased accordingly. This figure, I am sure you will agree is quite remarkable for a new club just starting its 5<sup>th</sup> year. This will be my last year as Treasurer in line with the Constitution, I will give every assistance to the new Treasurer to make the transition go smoothly.

Our auditor Richard found no issues with our finances, and we thank him for his work and his promptness in dealing with matters. We shall need you approve the financial statement at the AGM.

**Bagworth Whistlestop Bridge Group Mission**

The logo consists of the word "Vote" in a blue, sans-serif font. A red checkmark is positioned above the letter 'o', extending from the top right of the 'o' and curving upwards and to the left.

***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 22-23**

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

### **How did we do?**

Well, we have tackled our priorities with gusto in 2022-3 now that we have had a complete year of face-to-face bridge. We have increased our membership base following the beginners programme and all but two of them have joined the club as playing members. Our current membership base is 50, the highest it's ever been, and this figure excludes the online players on RealBridge. Improving standards at the table has been more discrete in its approach in that it has been done at the table rather than regular announcements. The director is rarely called except for scoring tablet issues! It's been a bumper year for competitions and all members entered the newly established knockout competition. A new social Swiss teams bridge session has also been held. We have established healthy links with

other organisations e.g. the Rural Communities Network and the LCBA through networking and making a presentation at the voluntary sector forum. Our healthy bank balance enabled us to purchase additional equipment as our membership increases as outlined in the treasurer's report. Our biggest success has probably been in changing our scoring system to bridgepal which has been easy to operate and removes the need for additional licences. Thank you to Simon in this

### **Planning Proposals 2023 -24**

1. To maintain our current membership cohort by providing good bridge playing opportunities, a convivial atmosphere and support where needed.
2. To improve standards in bridge by providing a regular improvers programme
3. To maintain our inter-club bridge connections through further social bridge events, club visits and online bridge
4. To secure additional equipment as need arises
5. To expand the committee to train people up for specific roles eg. Web support, administration, treasurer.
6. To maintain our current competitions and encourage full membership participation.
7. To profile the club with an expanded publicity, promotional material
8. To maintain a healthy financial profile.
9. To engage more members in the running of the club eg in teaching, setting up the sessions
10. To engage more players in interclub online competitions
11. To participate in training opportunities provided by the LCBA or EBU

