

Annual Report 2019-2020



Bagworth Whistlestop Bridge Group



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Chairman's Introduction

Well what a carry on! This is our second Annual Report and the AGM scheduled for 15/06/2020 will not be taking place as we planned a year ago. We are all aware of the current situation due to Covid 19 and as I write this we are still in lockdown, awaiting the next phase of instructions from Boris. Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that we will be meeting again in the near future but we will be ready when the time comes and we will stay in touch in the meantime. This is important for the future of the club as well as for individual members. If we keep in touch we can help and support each other. Shelagh is still posting her brilliant News Letters and we are on hand to offer advice to anyone who wants to keep up their bridge using Bridge Base on Line. Many videos and clips have been circulated to brighten our days and I have laughed out loud at some of them LOL!! And what about our newly acquired technology skills- we can now play bridge on line, and use Zoom, WhatsApp or Houseparty to stay in touch with our family and friends. I have even had my mobile in use every day, and I have texted!! Our gardens have never been tended so well and some of you have sorted cupboards, drawers, attics and garages. I am not yet amongst those people. Thankfully the toilet roll crisis seems to have been averted.

Chairman's Report

We have 40 paid up members and the group is now well established at the Community Centre and in the wider community. We welcomed new members John and Janet Dagley, Mel Gwinnutt, David Simmonds, John Mousley and John Cooper...note three Johns! It was with enormous sadness that we received the news of the death of Claire Lewis. Claire was one of best supporters and it was always a pleasure to play at her table. She continues to be missed.

We regularly had 6 and sometimes 7 tables, which is marvellous, but brings its challenges. We will very likely move into the larger hall when we resume, at least initially, if the extra space can satisfy any social distancing requirements. This will result in additional costs for a more spacious room but the increase in table money revenue will help to offset this. The feedback from members about the good accommodation and the friendly atmosphere has been very positive.

During the months when we were in operation, we enjoyed playing challenging bridge in a friendly and relaxed environment. This was achieved with considerable help from our members. John has proved an

excellent treasurer and I was very relieved to hand over the books to him last year. Marilyn has assisted John and taken charge of the raffle and they have both valiantly done our scoring after each session, usually in double quick time. Shelagh has been in charge of membership and communications, and has regularly produced the News Letter and various press releases. She set up the Improver's course and generously gave of her time and skills to progress the development of the club. Gosia has supplied us regularly with delicious treats to munch with our tea and John and Josie always arrive early to help set up the room and deal the cards. In February, 6 of the regular organisers jetted off, or sailed away, to various locations around the world and Steve fearlessly stepped in to run the Thursday sessions, while we sipped cocktails supplied to us by our very own waiter in the bridge room. He was assisted by Margaret with Sue stepping in to run the raffle. Gosia took over the supply of tea and coffee, no doubt with extra cakes. I am sure other members supported Steve while we were away. To all these people I extend my heartfelt thanks for your invaluable contributions to our fantastic club. You have all been encouraging and helpful and it is thanks to you all that Whistlestop Bridge in Bagworth has been a success.

At our last Annual General Meeting (AGM) we discussed our plans for 2019-20 and also considered whether we should amalgamate with another club and join the English Bridge Union (EBU). How we did against these plans is shown later in the report and the committee consider that as things have not changed significantly since our last AGM, both joining the EBU or merging with another club those decisions are still valid.

Treasurers Comments

We have completed our financial objectives for the year and have been particularly pleased to set up our groups bank account, which was not easy. We introduced a receipt book system at the beginning of the year and the raffle. The latter was to try to generate some additional funds for the purchase of equipment as well as some fun.

The introduction of the new scoring technology has been possible using the raffle funds and the generous donation of £500.00 from Toni. We are awaiting the outcome of our grant application for a dealing machine where we shall have to match fund. We have also had the offer from the Ashby club to use their dealing machine but this will require us to buy additional boards which are £70.00 a set.

Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31st May 2020

Income for all in Pounds Sterling	2019-20	2018-9
Cash Bought forward from Previous year	481.69	0
Cash generated from Table monies	1,565.00	315.00
Cash Generated from Raffle	637.00	0
Cash generated from Membership	400.00	0
Cash generated from Improvers course	140.00	1915.70
Donation from Toni Capewell	500.00	0
<u>Income Total</u>	3,723.69	2,230.70
Expenditure for all in Pounds Sterling		
Rent for Room	615.00	753.50
Insurance	102.68	0
Tea/Coffee/Biscuits /milk etc	32.48	88.49
Computer	429.99	0
Lenovo Bridge Tablets	721.92	0
Bridge Tablet Covers	71.35	0
Bidding boxes	30.30	161.80
Table Numbers 1 – 15 (red)/ Lamination	9.60	4.01
Table	111.59	570.00
Playing Cards	36.00	65.40
Boards	69.90	0
Bridgeweb Annual Subscription	42.00	0
Annual Party Xmas and AGM	83.87	0
Raffle Prizes	259.01	27.50
Cloths		60.00
Travellers		15.66
Trophy/ gift	21.90	0
Expenditure Total	2,637.59	1,746.36
Bank Balance/ cash in hand at 31.5.20	1108.00	
Balance Income and Expenditure	3723.69	

Description of Club Assets **

Item	Number	Type
Tables	7	Gopak
	1	Plastic
Cloths	8	Velvet mixed colours
Boards	36	Duplimate Compatible 1 Set
Bridge Tablets	8	Lenovo 7" with cover
Computer	1	Acer Swift Laptop 14"

Table Sundries

Numbers/Cards

Screen Pens for Tablets

Travellers

** Note that cost of assets is shown in the financial statement and depreciation of assets at 25% will be shown in the following year assuming a life cycle of four years

Treasurers Comments continued

We do not recommend changing table money this year as it is in line with other clubs and does cover costs. However, in the light of the current coronavirus situation we are asking for your consideration of the subscription. In the year 19-20 you have only had the club operational for 75% of the year, hence we technically owe you a bit! We shall be asking for your consideration of this in the AGM vote/questionnaire. Whatever the outcome, we shall not be asking for subscriptions until the group meets again.

From the statement you will see the cost of the insurance is shown as £102.68, this represents 15 months cover. The Insurance Company runs policies from November - October so we initially purchased 3 months to October 2019 and then 12 months from November 2019 - October 2020.

The Improver's Course is shown as generating income of £140.00. However, as you know, the course had to be cancelled and consequently there will be expenditure against this sum in the next financial year when the course is rearranged. Significantly, if we have to use the larger room for health and safety reasons related to the virus, the expenditure may be more than we originally anticipated.

You will see that our bank balance is healthy and whilst I have included the financial statement for the previous year, there is little point in comparative comment because of the more detailed accounts now, the differing purchases and the 75% operational year of 2019/20. We anticipate that our room rental costs are likely to be higher on our immediate return as we imagine people will feel more confident in the greater spacial area of the hall. We will continue to provide the drinks and biscuits and you will see the costs have gone down, largely due to donations from yourselves, thank you!

I would like to thank our auditor, Andrew Billson for his time, helpfulness and comments and I would like to thank all members for their support during this difficult time

Comments and Recommendations From Auditor

All accounts have been signed as true and approved with the recommendation that depreciation of assets is shown and the suggestion that consideration is given to the taking refreshment costs from raffle funds profits. The committee will keep this under consideration but feel that it is important to keep matters separate for now so that the financial implications of the withdrawal of either can be considered separately.

Overall Aims of the Group

- 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.

Plans and Priorities for 2019-20 from AGM 2019

1. The development of a committee structure
2. The procurement of a bank account
3. Additional and more secure storage at the Community Centre
4. Purchase of a computer both for scoring and for safe storage of group records.
5. Development of better web site more appropriate for bridge which will probably require monthly subscription
6. Application for grants to cover electronic scoring equipment

Despite not having met since early March most of our aims and objectives have been achieved. We elected the committee structure at the AGM which worked well usually by discussion and email although we have had one formal meeting. A bank account has been set up via a protracted and difficult process but now works well and we can pay for goods and services on line.

We have been less successful in achieving better storage at the centre and have not managed to get the storage cupboard promised to us. This seems to bound in some difficulties of procurement and ownership between the Parish Council and the Community Trust

We have been very successful in building our financial resources largely through careful management of our finances, the generous donation from Toni and the income generation initiative of the raffle. This enabled us to buy the key equipment identifies in our plan of the computer and the new scoring system. The committee researched this thoroughly via visits to other clubs and the demonstration by Arc Scorer which you all attended. We believe that we have a robust system in Bridgetabs and one which is fit for purpose. This does require an annual licence and we are sorry that the lock down came as we were just getting into it and just hope we can remember how to operate it.

As identified in our plan, In conjunction with the new scoring equipment we invested in a bridge related web site and again after research opted for Bridge webs. Set up was not easy despite what it says in the manual and we can operate it and load our weekly results directly as well as

upload our key documents and news. There is more to learn, however. An annual licence fee is required for this.

Our aim is to eventually acquire a dealing machine to enable us to raise club standards as it details the hands and the play and to have full standard club facilities in the 21st century. As such, we have made an application for a grant of £1700.00 from the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Initiative Fund which if granted we will have to match. The outcome of the grant will be known in June.

Whilst not detailed in our plan it is essential that we have insurance to protect you. We managed this through Fidentia, the broker for Ecclesiastical Insurance as they specialise in Charities and small non profit making groups.

Resources don't last for ever and we have maintained standards by buying additional or replacing worn items, for example cloths, packs of cards and table numbers.

Our interaction with other clubs has been physically limited but we have had good wishes from Loughborough, The County Club, Glenfield and Market Bosworth. The Ashby club has generously offered the use of their dealing machine. We invited Bosworth to the Arc demonstration and we have played an online match with them. We would like to extend liaison with other clubs next year.

Planning Proposals for 2020-21.

1. To raise standards within the club by delivering the planned Improvers Course and develop a Beginners Bridge Course.
2. To improve play by the use of a dealing machine.
3. To maintain the sociable atmosphere within the group with events, for example, Christmas Parties.
4. To develop some internal club competitions, for example, a knockout.
5. To expand club expertise in setting up a club session
6. To maintain our club communication systems and continue to profile the club across the area.
7. To start regular meetings again as soon as possible when it is safe to do so
8. To develop and spread on line bridge play within and outside the club
9. To develop some interclub social events