

Chairman's Report 2024

This is my third year as Chair of Great Yarmouth Bridge Club (GYBC) and it seems to have passed rather quickly. On returning in 2021 to playing face to face bridge, it was my hope the Club would flourish and maintain its reputation as a club which continues to be somewhere people want to come because they can have a good game of bridge in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere.

Looking back, I am pleased with what we have achieved so far. Luckily for me, the key members involved in the smooth operational running of the club, Cheryl, Tom, Lesley, Anne & Nick have stayed in post which meant that the Club has continued to be run efficiently and without incident.

My heartfelt thanks go to the above mentioned, who ensure the venue is set up and ready for the prompt commencement of play. I must also mention, and thank, Rob, for undertaking Tournament Director (TD) duties alongside me. This can be a thankless task, but without a TD there would be no game. Rob also prepares the pre-dealt hands we use every Monday evening. This saves the club a great deal of time and I am sure you agree we have seen some "interesting" hands over the months.

Initially our table numbers amounted to an average of 5.5 tables per session, dial forward to 2024 and that number has increased to an average of 8 tables per session. Associated with this is the number of registered members we have. Back in 2021, the Club had a core membership of 22 players. Now we have 50 paid up members. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects well on the reputation the club has within the local bridge community.

It is anticipated our numbers may continue to grow over the next few months. As you are aware, Rob has just commenced a 10-week

beginners course comprising of 7 students. It is hoped some, if not all, will make the transition to playing at Great Yarmouth Bridge Club in due course.

The Club is not always about the game of Contract Bridge, during the past twelve months we have undertaken some generous charity fundraising to both local and national worthwhile causes. I thank everyone one of you for agreeing to participate in these events and donating freely.

In addition, we ran two social events during the year. We held our first summer event in June and our usual Christmas Party on 16th December 2024. Both occasions were well attended and, from the feedback received, enjoyed by everyone. It is the Committee's intention to plan more such events, subject to there being an appetite for such occasions and finances permitting. At this point, I must express my sincere thanks for all the hard work that Cheryl undertakes to ensure they proceed without a hitch. Without her organisation they would not be as successful as they are.

Finally, a club is only as good as its members and that is where every one of you plays a key role each week, by coming, playing and helping with the putting away of the tables and chairs at the end. Please continue to tell your Bridge friends about the Club and how they will be assured of a warm welcome and an enjoyable evening's play, if they were to come along.

I am grateful for all your support and look forward to another successful year for the Club.

Steve Harris

Chair, Great Yarmouth Bridge Club

7th January 2025