

The Kenilworth Bridge Club Ltd

Chairman's report

8th July 2024

Dear Member

I am coming to the end of my fourth year as Chairman. This has been a year of consolidation. We have welcomed more members back to club as they are now confident to play face to face again.

We have been notified that the following members passed away during the year. Audrey MacDonald , John Douce, Bill McGilvray , John Oldfield, John Symonds, Phillip Bushill-Matthews , Valerie Maniam , Anne Waterhouse, Betty Hind, Pat French and Jean Whidborne. We will miss their presence at the club.

Covid caused severe disruption to our teaching programmes and we have continued to support and encourage our lesson groups. It has been our aim to ensure that there are appropriate sessions that all our students can attend alongside their lessons every week. We now offer supervised play on Wednesday mornings where experienced players are on hand to help and answer questions. It is a very gentle introduction to duplicate bridge in a supportive and relaxed atmosphere. An additional supervised play session will start on Wednesday evenings 7-9pm from 1st August . Both sessions will run over the summer months till the new courses start in October. The only way to improve is to play ...and play ...and play.

We have also introduced "relaxed sessions" on Monday and Friday mornings where play is a little slower than our other sessions. Supervised play and relaxed sessions have hosts so you can come without a partner.

Adding all these extra sessions has only been possible because so many of you have volunteered to help out. KBC has always been fortunate that our members are willing to 'give something back to the club". We are all busy people with lots of calls on our time and many do not want the commitment of joining a committee or training to be a TD, a scorer or a duplimator. We are fortunate that we have a group of people willing to help out occasionally as a host , teachers assistant , tea/coffee maker, or setting up or tidying up after a session etc . There are lots of jobs and if you would like to help in some capacity please speak with Alison Grant our Secretary.

We continue to run two BBO sessions each week on Monday and Thursday evenings. These both attract a regular group of members who enjoy the 7-9pm format. At the last AGM it was suggested that we explore the possibility of moving these sessions onto the Realbridge platform. We ran two free Realbridge sessions in the autumn last year on a Friday and Sunday evening. Despite lots of advertising these sessions were poorly supported and several players were unable to stay connected. Following feedback we have decided to stay with BBO for the time being. As fibre to the premises is rolled out throughout Warwickshire connections should improve. We are all learning that we need to ensure that we have reliable computer hardware to enable us to manage our lives. Certainly Realbridge is much cheaper to run and I hope that we will look at the Realbridge option again in the future.

We ran trophy competitions in the Autumn. We are now running the cumulative pairs competitions for all our duplicate sessions over a six month period. This enables you to play with several different partners and get a qualifying result. The average of your six best scores with the same partner is automatically entered in this competition. We ran the Online Pairs League for the last time. This competition was set up at the beginning of covid to entertain us during lockdowns. Our thanks to Heather Harvey and Tony Hudson who ran it so efficiently and successfully .

We hope to introduce some more competitions in club such as handicapped pairs and perhaps a teams event in the coming year.

Ron Pritchard has done an excellent job managing the building for us. He stands down at the AGM though he has kindly agreed to help out in arranging access etc as required. Jenny Saunders has worked hard recording all our meetings and managing the day to day administration. Jenny hands over the secretary role to Alison Grant who was coopted during the year. Lis Antrobus stood down as membership secretary earlier this year. Lis had also previously served as our treasurer. We are grateful for the time she has dedicated to KBC and for the very efficient manner in which she managed these roles. Jane Sell was coopted onto the committee and is now our membership secretary. We also welcome Elizabeth Browne who is currently taking lessons with us and will be able to represent the interests of the upcoming beginners groups.

I am standing down as Chairman and handing over to Val Ross-Gilbertson. Val has been a hands on Vice chairman this year and I am certain will continue to promote KBC as a friendly club catering for all abilities. Jenny and I will stay on the committee.

The last four years have been hard work for all of us. Steering KBC through the covid years presented us with some unprecedented challenges which everyone pulled together as a team to overcome. Ensuring continuity whilst planning for the future is always difficult. We have a new generation of KBC members on the committee now. I think we have achieved a good balance and I am confident that this committee will continue to work well together.

KBC is a members club. Whilst our legal status is as a company limited by guarantee we trade mutually as a club for the benefit of our members. As a committee we try to arrange sessions and events that will interest and entertain you. If you have ideas for activities that we are not currently offering do share them with us. If there is demand and we can staff them we are always willing to consider your suggestions.

So many thanks to all of you for your hard work and support. We could not have succeeded without you. Remember YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU.

I hope you will join us on 2nd August for the 52nd AGM followed by a duplicate session.

Kind regards

Jane Mackenzie
Chairman

