# Leamington Bridge Club

Chairman’s Report 2024

During the last year we have continued to meet once a week on a Monday and online on a Wednesday. Our membership remains stable at 35 members, including our two life members, Bala Maniam and Ken Boutell. Averaged over the year we have 5.14 tables on a Monday, the maximum being 6.5, which we achieved twice, both times in June. This is a slight increase on the average for last year (5.12). Online we rarely exceed three tables now, and there have been several occasions when we had insufficient numbers to make the sessions viable (1.5 tables or less). It is unsurprising that in consequence we are making a loss; we really need 7 tables a week on a Monday in order to cover the costs of hiring the hall and paying for refreshments. The online sessions are profitable but with such low numbers the amount of profit is small.

I would like to put the reason for the decline in numbers into a local context. Our Monday evening numbers are approximately the same as Kenilworth Bridge Club’s on a Tuesday evening, although they attract many more for their daytime sessions. We regularly attract more players on a Monday evening than Coventry Bridge Club does on its Tuesday evening sessions. Our online numbers are much lower than either Kenilworth or Coventry. I am sure that if we had the opportunity to run daytime sessions, we would be able to attract larger numbers, but I am not aware that this is a realistic possibility.

In the course of the year, we have introduced new technology in the form of tablets running on the ArcScorer system. There have been the inevitable teething problems, but when the tablets work as they are designed to do, the advantages are obvious. Jerome and I are grateful to you all for persevering!

Almost finally, I have an apology: I promised last year to try and run both a handicap and an individual competition. Sadly, we haven’t managed to achieve this, but we did manage to run a teams of four competition recently and the other competitions are still on my radar. Perhaps the Christmas party will offer an opportunity to run an individual competition, although it depends on getting the right number of tables.

It only remains for me to thank the other members of the committee for their service over the year. On a personal note, this will be my last year as your chairman. I was elected in succession to Ron Sanders at the AGM in 2018, so next year’s AGM will mark the seventh anniversary of my taking the chair. I am sure you will agree that seven years is quite long enough and it is now up to you and the Committee to come up with a candidate or candidates to take over from me next year. I want to thank Ron Sanders for his service as former chairman and a committee member as he is standing down this year and to welcome Chris Harrison who has agreed to take Ron’s place on the committee, subject of course to your approval.

Finally I want to mention that this year we lost Bob Atwood, who had only been a member for a relatively short time. It is now apparent that he was terminally ill and sadly he died in August, having last played as recently as June. We also lost former members Jeanette Furst and Teresa Jaszczyk.

**Trophies**

Autumn League 2023 (McDonald Cup) Ken Boutell and Mike Curley

Winter League 2024 (TD’s Trophy) Ken Boutell and Mike Curley

Summer League 2024 (Albermar`le Cup) Jerome Tucker and Margaret Young