

STRATFORD UPON AVON BRIDGE CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

Bridge playing

For the year to 31st May 2024, the number of attendees is steadily increasing towards pre-pandemic levels. We have returned to face to face bridge as the interest in online has dwindled significantly. As at 31 May total membership was 368 including 63 students. We are aiming to gradually increase this to 400 which is our pre -pandemic level.

Daytime bridge is proving more popular than evenings. We now have at least one playing session every day of the week except Sundays. We have an evening session on Fridays. Of the weekly daytime sessions, two are assisted play and one is an improvers' session.

We have run beginners and improvers lessons throughout the year and, due to demand, instigated a second beginners' course in April this year.

As well as running Year 1 and 2 teaching courses, we have had a series of teaching sessions for experienced players. These include sessions provided by:

Adam Hickman
Andrew Robson
Steve Green

Finances

This year I am pleased to report the club has returned to a profit this accounting year following losses in the preceding two (post-Covid) years. We recorded a small gain of £620, which is the first one since 2021. Table monies and teaching fees account for most of the increased income, while the increase in expenditure is mainly due to rising energy costs.

Given our strong balance sheet, we are maintaining table monies and subscriptions at the current levels notwithstanding the requirement to now charge for VAT since reaching the HMRC threshold.

Social events

- The summer social was held on Friday 7th July 2023. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the event. The food was a little too stodgy and a different caterer will be found for future summer events.
- The Christmas party was on Friday 15th December 2023. The event was oversubscribed and all had a fun time. The feedback was it was well organised and most enjoyable.

I would like to thank Lynne and the numerous members who volunteered to help organise these and other events.

We have a number of events planned in the 2024-5 financial year, some of which have already taken place: the Bridge and Pizza supper event in June and the festival of Bridge in Sept. We also have the Club Bridge weekend in March next year.

Management Team and Board

After many years of dedicated service Roger Harris as Property Team Leader, Chairman and most recently Secretary is stepping down from the Board. I thank him for his significant contributions over very many years.

We had two great additions to our Management Team prior to the date of this report – Sarah Darnes and Becky Penney who have already made significant contributions.

In addition, we now have five active Tournament Directors and five active Teachers (along with several assistants), with several more being trained.

I would like to thank all the Board and Team Leaders for their hard work during the year, and the Tournament Directors and Teachers, without whom we could not run sessions six days a week and, last but not least, all the helpers and assistants who do all the vital jobs in the background that keep the club running smoothly.

Alan Patel
Chairman
5 October 2024