

## **Tenterden Duplicate Bridge Club – 2020 AGM**

### **Agenda Item 4 – Committee Report**

#### **Membership**

During the year it was with great sadness that we received news of the deaths of three of our members; Marjorie Webster, David Body and Margaret Clement.

At the end of 2019 membership stood at 74, down from 86 at the end of 2018. In addition to the above, we no longer have as members Anita Asparo, Brenda Caple, Allen Cottell, Graham Frost, Cherry Hunter, Steven King, Roy Moore, Pat & Peter Nielsen, Ken Shadbolt, Caroline Swift, Charles Vertue and Mike Vickery. However, we welcomed four new members during the year, Lynn Brodlie, Richard Caister, David Holmes and Frances Smith. Despite the fall in membership, table numbers for 2019, which averaged just under 11, were only very slightly down on 2018.

By the end of January 53 members had renewed their membership for 2020 and we had received one resignation in a cordial email from Lucy Hall who has moved back to Tunbridge Wells.

William Walker & Jim Wortley attended a KCBA Membership Development Initiative seminar in the autumn and the committee will be working on a membership recruitment drive. Jim Wortley and Claude Wilkes will be attending an EBU Teacher Training course at the end of February, which will put us in a better position to offer teaching to attract new or less experienced players, perhaps through a 'learn & play' group.

We have a new Facebook page which we hope will help spread information about the club, although it's in its early stages. Those of you on Facebook might want to "like" the page, comment on it and share it among friends. Search for Tenterden Bridge Club and help us make more people aware of the club.

#### **Events**

We held competitions & events throughout 2019, playing the EBU Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn Sim Pairs and, in November, the ECATS 'Children in Need' charity Sim Pairs. Our home-grown fund-raising event on 29 January raised £450 for cancer research. Within the club we played our Championship, Ladies', Men's and Mixed Pairs events. The winners of these and the Masterpoints Cup were as below and the trophies will be presented during bridge following the AGM. We will play these events again in 2020.

Championship Pairs Cup	Sue Alley and Val Frearson
Ladies' Pairs Cup	Helene Ford and Dot Servante
Men's Pairs Cup	Terry Hornsby and Jim Wortley
Peter Wright Mixed Pairs Cup	Margaret Clement and Jim Wortley
Masterpoints Cup	Linda Radford

In June we hosted the annual teams match with Hawkhurst for the Wealden Salver, which resulted in a home win for Tenterden. Hawkhurst will host the match this year.

In October two teams from Tenterden (Janet Rumsey, Sue Rolles, Pauline Shaw & Anne Kelly and William Walker, Claude Wilkes, Dave Sugg & Nigel Savage) took part in the 1066 Teams event, hosted by St Leonards Bridge Club. This year's event will be hosted by the 2019 winners, East Sussex Bridge Club. There are a wide variety of teams' competitions 'out there' for players of different standards and we would encourage more members to play in them; talk to Jim Wortley if you'd be interested.

Pétanque followed by cheese & wine was enjoyed before bridge on an early evening in August; postponed from June due to the threat of heavy rain stopping play. Our Summer party in July and our Christmas party in December were attended by 46 and 52 members respectively. We're adding a 'Cheese & Wine before bridge' evening in October this year with the intention of having one 'social' event per quarter on the calendar.

We were very happy to help Pat and Maurice Markson celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary during the summer with fizz and a celebration cake. A photo of them cutting the cake on our bridge evening made it into the English Bridge magazine. Many thanks go to Jim Wortley who makes it possible for Pat and Maurice to continue playing at the Club by picking them and taking them home each Wednesday.

## **Calendar and Members' List**

The calendar for 2020, including events, the directors' rota and the host list has been circulated together with the current list of members and contact phone numbers. We may add to the calendar during the year if we find additional opportunities for members to play 'teams', included at mixed ability against other local clubs.

The host system is something of which we can be justifiably proud and which adds to our reputation as a friendly club. We are very grateful to all those members who take their turn as host on a Wednesday evening. However, it's very disappointing for visitors or those without a partner on the odd occasion when the host does not turn up, so please check when you are listed as host and find someone to swap with if you're no longer able to do it.

We really appreciate being able to contact members by email, at the moment only five of you have not provided an email address, so please share it with us if you have one.

## **Annual Accounts & Treasurer's Report**

The annual accounts for 2019 and the treasurer's report are provided separately to this report. You'll see that we would like to increase table money to £3 rather than £2.50, with visitors' charges remaining at £4.

## **Committee Membership**

The current committee members, William Walker (chair), Judith O'Connor (treasurer), David Cooper, Jeanna Grieves and Jim Wortley are prepared to continue in office. However, we are in urgent need of a secretary and one or two more members to help share the load and make it possible to do more as a club. Being a member of the committee is not a big commitment; we meet on a Wednesday before bridge about every two months. If you could help by joining the committee, please let us know.

## **Directors**

We are indebted to Sue Rolles, Bob Shilling, Pauline Shaw, Janet Rumsey and Andras Zaborsky who, together with Margaret Clement, have been our directors' in recent years and without who Wednesday evening bridge at Tenterden would not happen. Pauline has now retired from the rota and we owe her a big vote of thanks. Dave Sugg and Claude Wilkes qualified as directors at the end of 2019 and joining the rota for 2020 along with Judith O'Connor, who also directs at St Leonards.

## **Computerised Scoring**

Following the decision of last year's AGM to allow the committee to reconsider the adoption of computer scoring, and due in no small part to Margaret's persistence, a 16-table Bridgemate system was purchased together with a second-hand laptop and brought into use in the summer. Offset by a £500 grant from the EBU, the total cost to the club was only £1,850. Inevitably there have been occasional teething problems, largely linked to setting the movement, because once this is done you have to go back to 'square one', which includes re-setting the handsets, if the movement has to be changed. It is primarily for this reason that we ask you are in your seats by 7pm to allow bridge to start as soon as possible after that.

Currently our scorers are David Cooper, Judith O'Connor, Dave Sugg and Nigel Savage but, with Judith and Dave joining the directors' rota, there is an urgent need for more. If you're reasonably familiar with computers, scoring is not difficult - we have a good set of instructions and training will gladly be given.

Computer-dealt hands remain in use only for Sim Pairs events; these are dealt for us at minimal cost by St Leonards Bridge Club.

## **Thanks**

Finally, our thanks go to all those who have made and continue to make Wednesday evening bridge in Tenterden run smoothly: to all our directors; to Sue Rolles & Terry Hornsby who scored for us every week prior to the arrival of the little grey boxes; to our current scorers; to Izzy and Olivia who make the tea and to all those who arrive early every week to set up the tables and stay late to tidy up – please do remember that bridge at Tenterden doesn't happen every week by magic!