

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14th September 2015

Chairman's Report

I would like to thank you all for attending our Annual General Meeting.

It is with regret and sadness I have to announce the deaths of four of our members. Doreen Porter, Tony Sheridan, George Eakin and David Collins.

During the last year we have welcomed 29 new members and lost 28. Our membership currently stands at 262.

Mike Greatbatch and Joh Woolton did try to start a beginners class this September but unfortunately due to lack of interest they have had to be cancelled.

The Gentle Duplicate bridge is still catering for those who want to play with a little help and guidance and I would like to thank everyone who helps at these sessions. We have however lost a few of our helpers during the past year and would welcome a few more members to assist once a month on a Wednesday.

Over the past year we have tried to hold various competitions on Sundays, but to no avail. The May Day Swiss Pairs had to be cancelled due to lack of support, the only success being the Charity Swiss Pairs Event which was held on a Saturday afternoon in January and was a great success with a cheque for £653 being presented to The Shaftesbury Boys Club.

The Committee have decided to hold another Charity event on January 23rd next year. It will again be held on a Saturday afternoon and will only be one normal session. I hope it will be well supported. The Charity we would like to support is the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Our Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning (organised by Chris Griffin) is being held this Friday (18th September) a week earlier than the designated date and I hope you will all come along and support it.

Our bar prices, which have not increased for the past two years, have been reviewed and unfortunately there has had to be a small increase in prices.

We have at this club a standby system where members without a partner can come along and enjoy a game. Many members feel that as they have a regular partner they do not want to take part in this. It only entails coming twice a year on a designated night (your choice of day and date). Could I please ask all members who have declined to do this to reconsider their decision.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the members that make our club run so smoothly.

These include the Secretary, Treasurer, Members of the General and Disciplinary Committee's, Director key holders and Card dealer standbys. All those people that purchase our bar supplies and stationary and those that also organise the second hand books and hiring of our DVD's.

A special thank you this year should be made to Brenda Gray who has this year has topped the £1000 mark for the cards she makes and donates free of charge to the club to raise funds for our special charity Claire House.

This is the end of my report.

Thank you.