

Stratford-upon-Avon Bridge Club

Newsletter ~ Friday 23rd October 2015

 Issued following Tuesday's Management Team & Board Meeting:



IMPORTANT REMINDER: *Please* don't come to the club with coughs and colds. Thank you.



Treasurer's Report - Alison Rigg: Monthly accounts were presented. Alison could not attend but reported that HMRC had queried a non-payment of tax that another part of their department had already confirmed was not due. She pointed this out to them and they agreed. [Well we can't all be perfect.]



Secretary's Report - Phillip Bell: ☉Annual Report submitted to Companies House. ☉New Directors appointed at Companies House. ☉A Club Communications Policy was approved and will be implemented.



Bridge Report - Peter Randall: Peter reports that a TD meeting is imminent. The current shortage of TDs will be on the agenda. Peter has found a new card dealer and now doesn't have to spend as many hours in the back room clicking away. Well done Trish Cooley, hope it doesn't become addictive. More volunteers still welcome.



Training Report - Peter Styles: ☞The teaching classes have begun in earnest with 20 beginners attending an evening session, as well as two Intermediate classes being run during the day. Brian Lawless has found a new vocation and perhaps should start a twitter account for his followers: @Lawlessabridgetoofar
☞The Abbey Smith seminar, on Friday 30th October is nearly full, but we can accommodate another 6 - 8 people.



Social Report - Mary Lee: The Quiz Event had **62** members, families and friends. The winners were Trish Cooley, Greta Pittaway, Diana Thorne, Peter Randall and Micky Pomeroy. Congratulations to them. The raffle raised £70 for Breast Cancer [it affects 1 in 8 women www.breastcanceruk.org.uk].

Our next event is the **Christmas Do** on December 4th 2015. The notice should go up next week.



Property Report - John Caulkin: ☞The electrical circuits are to be tested as part of the annual check.
☞We now have a blue recycling bin *Hoorah!* So now we need to separate all waste accordingly. More to follow.



Deputy Chairman - Peter Hayes: Our mentoring programme is underway. The idea is to help members who have both the potential and the ambition to improve by playing with and learning from more experienced members. Please contact me if you would like to be a mentor [or a mentee].



Membership Report - Judith Horton: We have 10 volunteers to train to be scorers. 5 have already attended a training session and are ready to get supervised practice. Another training session has been arranged for the other 5. This initiative is to encourage more TDs who don't like to do the scoring part of the process.



Chairman's Report - Roger Harris:

★ Firstly well done to Richard West for organising the kitchen improvements. Not easily seen as we waltz past but a few staunch, loyal, hardworking members [is that enough Anne?] will appreciate the new look.

☞ Proposed Building Improvement Project: There was a Review Panel meeting on 21st to discuss the various objections. The main outcome was that the plans were sensible but the costs may be too high to justify the work. Budget Costings [done by a quantity surveyor] have been presented to the Board and there will be a vote at the next meeting about the proposals. If the main extension does not get voted through there will be no need for a members' consensus of approval as the office/store work is essential and has had no objections.



In the news recently: suggestive new collective nouns include: "*a crash of IT technicians*" and "*a mass of Catholics*". Perhaps we could come up with a collective group of bridge players. "*A grand slam*", or "*a psyche*" "...a bit unfair that one. Any other [repeatable] suggestions to the chairman please.

And finally...

In Saturday's Times [17/10/15] the EBU court case was reported. As you may have heard the EBU lost their High Court battle to have bridge declared a sport. The judge agreed with Sport England that bridge lacked the necessary element of physical activity. So, to prove him wrong, we should have a "keep fit bridgeathon". After every trick everyone gets up and walks round the table. Can we keep this bridge as a sport argument going any longer??

AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE, AND HARDCOPIES POSTED ON CLUB NOTICEBOARD