

Chairman's report

Welcome to this, my first Chairman's report. I find the club in good heart. We have 106 members, up from 99 last year. Our Wednesday morning face-to-face session in particular is thriving, often attracting 8 or more tables. The on-line Tuesday evening session has slumped a little, generally having around 6 tables recently, though the teams session is still well attended. I think this reflects the increased popularity of daytime over evening bridge. Our Tuesday session has a high standard of play with as high an average NGS score as any regular club session in the county. Please do not let this put you off playing on Tuesday. You will only improve your play by playing against better opponents. The play is serious but friendly.

You have heard from our treasurer that the club is in good financial straits, making a small profit despite significant upgrades in our technology. If members have any suggestions on improvements to our facilities, please contact Adrian or me.

Our Wessex League A team has finished fifth in Division 1 and will maintain its status. The B team has unfortunately been relegated from division 3. In the daytime team of four league our A team has one match to play and will probably finished third in division 1 and our B team has finished 5th. Our C team would gain promotion from the second division if they win their last match against a Wallingford team by better than 15-5 VP. Our team in the EBU NICKO competition lost their first round match but have won their first match in the plate competition, Wallingford won the annual Len Salmon trophy match overall but our A team beat their A team. The winners of our annual competitions will be presented with their cups next. We unfortunately had to cancel our recent annual Blue Point Swiss Pairs event because of the small number of entries. We don't

know the reason for the drop from last year when there was a healthy turnout.

I would like to thank your committee for their hard work during the year. Tony stepped down from being chairman but has continued to supply his knowledge and expertise to the club. You have heard from Graham and Adrian, many thanks are due for their efforts. Andrew has continued as membership secretary, dealing with our increased number of membership applications. Gill has taken over the handling of our trophies and competition results. John had continued as chair of our laws and ethics committee. Thankfully they have not been called into action this year. Kay runs the Wednesday session WhatsApp group and she, Jan and Gill manage the catering.

Special thanks to our directors. John and I share the on-line directing of the Tuesday sessions. We must congratulate Adrian on passing his director's qualification this year and he directs on Wednesday mornings along with Alan and Andrew. He is also available for Tuesday evenings if necessary. Much thanks to our duplimators, Karen and Tony, and our Wednesday scorers, particularly Kay, Karen and Alan.

It seems to be a general property that clubs with increasing membership are those that offer lessons, particularly beginners lessons. We are restricted in this as we do not have our own premises. However I have been offering training sessions on Wednesday mornings when we look at the previous week's boards and how we might have done better. Any suggestions on how we might offer more formal instruction, particularly if they are offering to do it themselves, are welcome

Finally thanks to all our players for turning up and for playing with enthusiasm and with kindness and consideration to their opponents.