

Abingdon Duplicate Bridge Club Members' Newsletter April 2012

1 Life Members

I am delighted to inform you that the committee has appointed two new life members: Peter Litchfield and Tony Hughes. Both have served the club extremely well over the years. Congratulations to both.

2 Treasurer's Report 2020

2020 Accounts look very different from those of previous years. The last face-to-face bridge was in early March, and online bridge was started on 16th June. Thanks largely to Peter Litchfield, online bridge continued for the remainder of the year, at first on both Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings, then later just the former.

We can feel thankful that we do not own the freehold or a lease on our premises since, as soon as we ceased meeting, we no longer had to pay rent for the hall, which is always by far our largest expenditure.

Our largest source of income is table money and this continued in the online era. For a typical twelve-table session (our average in 2020) our net income was £22, after BBO's royalty, EBU's 'Pay-to-play' charge and a director's fee when charged.

Largely as a consequence of this margin and our annual subscriptions, we made a surplus for the year of £1622, bringing our total reserves to £6850.

This is a welcome increase, since we face many uncertainties in the future, among them: a) Membership - only 70% of 2019's members renewed in 2020. b) We don't know how many will return to face-to-face bridge - some players have indicated they are more likely to continue with just online. c) Just before we ceased hiring the hall, we were told of a large increase in our rent, which would have been effective from 1st April.

3 Membership (from Tony Hughes, membership secretary)

We currently have 121 paid up members including 12 "online members" who have joined so they can play regularly in our Tuesday online sessions. We ask them to pay an annual subscription once they have played four times. This compares with 145 paid up members last year before the first lockdown. In June last year the Committee decided to ask members to pay their annual subscriptions in order to ensure the continued financial viability of the Club in these uncertain times. 29 members elected not to pay of which 6 formally resigned or asked for their membership to be put in abeyance. None of these people play online but I will contact them when we resume face to face bridge to see whether they wish to rejoin/resume their membership. Sadly Marianne Solymar, who was one of our regular Wednesday morning players, has passed away.

Please note: Annual Subscriptions. No annual subscriptions will be collected until we return to face-to-face bridge. At that time, any members who paid an annual subscription for 20-21 and did not play online, will not be required to pay a subscription for 21-22.

4 Wessex League

There has been a new daytime league for teams of four this year, playing in two divisions. We have had three teams all playing in the first division, Abingdon Bridge, Abingdon MG, and Abingdon Morelands. Its many congratulations to Abingdon MG (Gillian Lonsdale, Nigel Wilkes, Dave Walton and Gordon Carroll) who won all six matches and won Division 1. Abingdon Bridge (Alison and Peter Jackson, Peter Litchfield and Keith Sadler) won five matches (guess which team we lost to!) and came second. Unfortunately, Abingdon Morelands (Karen and Tony Hughes and Brenda and John Edwards) only managed 1 win and look relegation in the face.

As far as the teams-of-eight is concerned, Abingdon A, in Division 1 had a good year and finished in the middle of the table. Our B team, in Division 2 have had a dreadful season finishing bottom: Division 3 here we come! The C team, in Division 3 finished mid-table despite winning four of their six matches.

5 RealBridge

Many of you will be aware of the growing popularity of RealBridge, which is challenging BBO as the most-favoured online platform. It is a British-based system, only developed last summer, but it is already in use at more than 500 clubs. It is also being adopted for some online congresses and in international events. It is more 'real' than BBO in that you can see and talk to your partner and opponents, with alerting in the normal way. The director has control of the timing of table moves and there are no robots. Those not familiar with it can see it at <https://realbridge.online/>.

It has been suggested that Abingdon trials it for a while and, if it proves popular, we might continue with a new weekly session. Can you please let me have your feedback on this idea:

a) You would like us to try it and prefer a weekday morning; b) a weekday afternoon; c) a weekday evening or d) not interested. Please email Keith at keithsadlr@aol.com

Also, I understand that it MAY be possible to run a face-to-face and online evening session simultaneously, using the same boards on Tuesdays. We will be exploring this!

6 Back to face-to-face bridge

Your guess is as good as mine as to when we return to the Centre. The main hall is being used as a 'bubble' by Oxfordshire, and I understand that this means that we may be a couple of weeks after other venues in opening up face-to-face. We will certainly be running the Wednesday sessions.

7 Competitions

All our annual competitions (the individual, teams etc) are suspended until we return to face-to-face bridge.

8 Thanks

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the committee. Although we have not met, we have had a zoom committee meeting and there has been a huge swapping of

emails! In particular, I would like to thank Peter for running our Tuesday evenings and also hosting all the home Wessex matches – setting up and presiding! Also thanks to Kevin who has interpreted the mysteries of income and expenditure from the EBU with aplomb – very tricky! Finally, to Tony for has had to handle a number of membership issues and kept the register for us.

I am pleased to inform you that all the members of the committee have agreed to continue for a further year. If you wish to email any committee member, you can do so by using the membership tab on the website. The committee is:

Keith Sadler (Chair)
Gordon Carroll (Vice Chair)
Peter Litchfield (Secretary)
Kevin Carter (Treasurer)
Tony Hughes (Membership Secretary)
Karen Hughes
Kay Hunnyball
Sue Evangelisti
Ruth Carter
John Rowe
Graham Simpson.

Best wishes
Keith