

New Amersham Bridge Club, Chairman's Report 2022/23

Membership has been good – 66 members in 2022-23, which is the same as it was at New Amersham 5 years ago. Though 66 is a good figure, we need more of you to attend more regularly ! We have just been surviving. We have 8 tables booked in for tonight's event, which will be a record – unfortunately, there have been too many occasions where we have had only 4 tables. Occasionally 3 or 3 ½ - we have had a policy of not playing when we have less than 4 – but occasionally someone drops out at the last minute. Because of Covid, and the fact that we have merged two clubs together, we don't have valid comparisons with previous years, but I hope that today's attendance is indicative that we are making progress. Covid seems to be mainly behind us, but not completely – there was a person in the last couple of months who was not feeling well, and so tested, and it turned out positive, so they didn't attend, which of course must be the right thing to do. I'm sure that one of the obstacles to us having larger attendance is online bridge. Most people, I have spoken to prefer f2f bridge, but playing at home can be more convenient.

We are fortunate that we have quite large balances built up by both clubs over the past years, and even now, our table money exceeds our direct costs - room hire, p2p fees and refreshments.

The standard of bridge is strong. Though we had a disappointing year in the Lof8 – where the team labelled 'A', who would hope to be challenging to win, finished 3rd, and the 'B' team, who have won the league in the past finished 5th. The C team finished 10th in Div 2. Thanks to Dick Davey, Chris Mooney and Mark Wilce for captaining those teams There have been fewer county competitions – they have struggled to attract sufficient entries, but a recent success was Carole and Herb Muller along with Dick Davey and Nigel Wolfendale winning the Committee cup. The Brown Cup – teams of 4 league was won by Ed Scerri, Dee and Peter Lindon, Steve Eginton and Gary Jones.

I must here express my thanks for the tremendous work that all the committee has put in over the past year or so, but especially to Sue Brown, who has been a tremendous help - getting emails out, and generally keeping things going.

I would like to mention Richard Bridgen, who has stood on the committee for at least 20 years, and gracefully allowed Cath Topcliffe to take over as the treasurer of the new club.

One further person to mention is Don Collier, who, as well as directing has kept the web site in order, and organised the bridge scoring program to accept all our needed movements Thanks are also due to Carole Mueller for dealing all the boards and printing hand records.