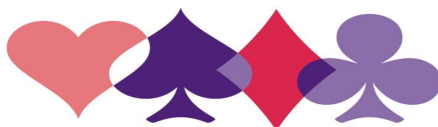


Issue 27

May 2025



BAGWORTH WHISTLESTOP

BRIDGE GROUP



BAGWORTH WHISTLESTOP BRIDGE GROUP

Newsletter May 2025

We promised at our AGM to consult with you all about any changes you wished to see in the club and for you to tell us what you liked and the things you didn't. We, also promised to review our constitution which may need change after five years. So this section outlines your responses.

We were not overwhelmed with responses for the consultation about the club with less than one third of the membership responding. However, everyone was very satisfied with the club, the way the sessions were run, how



we communicated with you, the refreshments, the invoicing system and the website. Members liked the friendliness of the club and the range of activities. We had some suggestions—having a birthday cup, having more Howell movements, shortening the AGM. We will try to manage these suggestions where possible and will certainly consider the birthday cup in the future. A copy of the findings will be

placed on the notice board and thank you to all respondents. For the constitution, we conducted a more limited but focussed consultation with members who had experience of running bridge clubs and committees rather than with the whole club and had some very useful discussions. As a result we shall be proposing some minor amendments to the constitution for the sake of clarity and to increase the number of committee members in line with our increases membership. We shall be asking you to vote for these at the AGM.

Competitions

We are coming to the end of our annual competitions with just one to go before the AGM. , that of the most improved player, which will run until June 12th. Congratulations to Philip Price and Robert

Robert Missenden who won the knockout after a tight match against George and Andy. The clear winners of the Random Pairs were Carol Stephens and Neil Stokes, congratulations both. At the County Bridge Club

Carol, Shelagh, Neil and Sadhana took first place in their charity swiss team after leading the field for most of the day but all was decided on the last hand! Shelagh and Belinda have been selected to play for Leics in the EBU final of the Corwen Cup.

Inside this issue:

Our Finances	2
Our Members	2
Stamford Visit	2
AGM	3
Handicaps and Resources	3
Dates for your diary	3
Bridge Support	4



Our Finances

We are sad to learn that Derek does not wish to stand for the treasurer role at our AGM in June and thank him on behalf of us all for his work. We are looking for a new treasurer and believe we have someone to nominate and for you to vote upon at the AGM.

Our current bank account now stands at a little over £4,200.00 and we think this is now a good contingency amount to cover the purchase of a new dealing machine should the need ever arise. We consider that there is sufficient cash flow to cover the cost of any other new smaller items and replacement costs and any training costs eg for teachers or directors.

We are conscious that the current invoicing system, the increased number of members and the range of our activities requires a considerable amount of work for the treasurer. In order to alleviate some of this pressure we are trialing the invoicing system via the bridge webs attendance module. This is now used by most bridge clubs who use bridgewebs as their website. Our results so far seem to show that it works quite well and so we expect to go with this model in the future.

The change to the new system is quite an undertaking and we have been grateful to the support given by Ashby, and Cheltenham bridges club for their help.

George has worked tirelessly to pilot this. We would like to move to being a cashless club in the future. The new system will allow card payments for those who do not use online banking. However, it's one step at a time!



Our Members

We are pleased to welcome Jean Collins and Chrissi Grace as new members to the club. Both are previous bridge players and we are especially delighted to find that Chrissi is our third Bagworth resident!

Three of our members who have specific roles stand

outside the committee (their choice) who do very valuable work and we do appreciate it. They are Mary Weeks—membership secretary, Neil Stokes—webmaster, Sue Allgood refreshments. We are most grateful to them. This is not forgetting the hot cross buns, donated by Marilyn and

John—yum, yum! Thankyou!

One of our members, Betty Voss, was 95 in May so we took her some flowers and a card and had a lovely email of thanks. Betty has been unable to attend the club for the last few months due to ill health but tells us she takes an active interest in the club through the website, member contact and always reads the newsletter. We are proud of you, Betty

Stamford Visit

Well the sun shone...all day, the coach arrived and Bagworth players sat out along the pavement cafes of Stamford—eating and drinking and watching the world go by! Some members shopped and some walked. We were even met with maps thrust into our hands at the coach stop by a Stamford member!

We arrived at the club and were

given a warm welcome as well as coffee and biscuits. The standard of play on a Wednesday is very high so we didn't manage to take the top slots with some 13 tables and an EBU NGS ranking of 53+%. Well done the 5 tables from Bagworth who played.

They have invited us back again next year and we would like to

organise such a lovely day out again although we can't promise the same weather. However, we could use a bit more support from you to help to cover the costs AND it's a good day out! We were let down at the last minute for various reasons. Stamford will allow us to bring 7 tables so do join us if you can next year.

Annual General Meeting : 19th June

We have quite a lot to do at our AGM this year. Firstly we shall start with some table snacks at 12.30 with the formal part of the meeting starting at 1.00pm where we review the year. Then, we have a number of committee members to elect which includes a treasurer and some additional committee members. We also have some amendment proposals to agree upon for the constitution and this will be followed by the presentation of awards to include trophies and handicap prize winners. This will be followed by duplicate bridge in the usual way but with fewer boards.



We do hope you will join us and make this a fun AGM. The committee needs your support and it is an opportunity to celebrate our successes and seek any improvements in the way the club is run and have a good time.

We hope to speed things along to allow the duplicate to progress smoothly and we would like your ideas on how to celebrate further through the award of the birthday cup to celebrate our club birthday each year. This is around the June 20th date hence our AGM date. We have known some AGMs which have included the usual formal part, elections, presentation of awards, bingo, a quiz, a game of skittles and a fish and chip supper! And all in two and a half hours!!



Handicaps and Resources

The handicap results seem to be working well and there is a spread of people to receive some cash at the AGM. In fact some 30 people have been successful. The results are shown on the website with the link below the actual results and Mandy collates them over the

year. Even the writer has had more success in the handicap than the raffle, so lets see what you get at the AGM!

We haven't had too much success with developing a shared resource base basically because there hasn't been too much sharing!! So, we will abandon this but we will display a sample list of resources on the notice board.

Similarly we haven't had takers for our suggestion if the last newsletter to take a walk through the website so no picnic to follow! However, if you have forgotten about this opportunity, you only need to let one of the committee know and we shall do our best to respond and explain more about the website.

Dates for your Diary

AGM Thursday 19th June

Swiss Teams—Saturday July 12th

Beginners Course—September 2025

Note the change of date for the Swiss teams. Registration is on the web site. Join us if you can for this popular charity swiss event and register now





Bagworth Whistlestop Bridge

E

Email. whistlestopbridge
inbagworth@gmail.com
Emergency phone : 07530364339

Never Knowingly Underplayed!

Our Mission is to share and spread the game of bridge to local people for their enjoyment, health and well being in a friendly, safe and comfortable environment



We are on the web

www.bridgewebs.com/bagworthwhistlestopbridge

Bridge Support

On the left hand side of the website is a section called learning online. This is not about playing on a virtual platform but about bidding the basics in bridge. It covers a useful summary of acol especially useful for learners and improvers. **Have a look.**

We have had to close our Tuesday afternoon session - supported duplicate as we rarely had two tables to make this an effective session.



We can resurrect this if there is sufficient interest. Please let Shelagh or Carol know.

We are continuing with our BBO coaching on line using 'Whats App' to communicate with the group of 3-4, now known as the WhizBag Casuals. We can accommodate other players as not everyone is available each week so again let Carol or Shelagh know. You need to be able to access BBO and also have a phone with Whats App to speak at the same time.

Moving forward, we would like to run a beginners course in September probably on a Monday morning. We are currently assembling a teaching

friends wishing to learn please put them in touch or invite them to a Thursday session as an observer. Beginners Bridge Programmes are the foundation of club development and sustainability so we need to maintain this even though our membership continues to grow usually by word of mouth!

