

**You are invited to the**  
**BEDFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**To be held online at your house**

**Thursday 13th May 2021, starting promptly at 7.00 pm**

The Annual General Meeting is an opportunity for all BBA members to ask questions and suggest ways to improve the county competitions calendar, the county newsletter and to propose other BBA activities. This year's agenda will include a report on the activities and finances of the Bedfordshire Bridge Association and election of officers and committee members.

Because of the continuing COVID-19 outbreak and the legal constraints on face to face meetings indoors, we will hold the meeting using Zoom. Members wishing to attend online can click on the link that will appear on the BBA website in due course.

The AGM will be followed by a heat of the EBED Spring SIM Pairs played on the RealBridge platform. Table money for this event is £4 per head. Appropriate links to this event will also appear on the website. Please make every effort to support this event.

**CURRENT COMMITTEE**

Details of the current officers and committee members are shown overleaf together with the nomination form. These details are also shown in 'Information' on the BBA website [www.bedsbridge.co.uk](http://www.bedsbridge.co.uk)

This year we will have two committee vacancies.

We are keen to encourage new people to join the committee and it is very helpful to have representatives from several clubs, competitive tournament players, those who prefer a more social local game and those interested in supporting newcomers to the game.

**NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

All eligible BBA members can nominate officers and committee using the nomination form. Nominations, duly seconded, should be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, and arrive at least 14 days before the meeting. In all cases the approval of the person being nominated must first be obtained. The committee usually meets four times per year. Committee members also assist with the running of county events and activities.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRIDGE  
ASSOCIATION**

**To be held online in your home  
On Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7pm**

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Approval of AGM Minutes of 16 May 2019**
- 3 Matters Arising**
- 4 Chairman's Report**
- 5 Treasurer's Report**
- 6 County Competitions Report**
- 7 Election of Officers**

**7.1 – Committee status as at AGM:**

Chairman: Colin O'Hara  
Vice-Chair: Michael Collins  
Treasurer: Pippa Green  
Secretary: Freda Collins

Four elected Committee Members: (currently Peter Scott, Derek Marsh, Jane Jensen, (all standing for re-election) and Bob Sellers (not standing this year)

- 8 Appointment of Hon. Auditor**
- 9 Any Other Business**

**The County Heat of the EBED Spring Simultaneous Pairs will follow the AGM; Table money £4 per head.**

Freda Collins email:([secretary@bedsbridge.co.uk](mailto:secretary@bedsbridge.co.uk))

## **BEDFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT 2019-2021**

When I took over from my able predecessor Michael Collins in May 2019, The Bedfordshire Bridge world had a very familiar look about it. We had a number of affiliates around the County in varying stages of success and one could look forward to an enjoyable and entertaining night out with competitive play and, mostly, convivial company pretty much any night of the week. Of course we had the usual problems that have afflicted the playing of Bridge for the last 40 years, slow play, discourteous opponents to name but two, but, on the whole, nothing that would mar your evening irrevocably.

Then came COVID-19 and the world changed before our eyes. Suddenly, our Bridge fix could only be sated by resorting to online games. These were OK as far as playing the game is concerned, but they took away the vital social element that makes this game both engaging and infuriating in equal measure. A few brave souls tried to replicate the club ethos using Bridge Base online (BBO) but that always felt artificial. For their part, the committee tried to set up a Bedfordshire Bridge Club, playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays but without significant support from the membership.

At this point, I should mention that Bedford Bridge Club set up two well attended sessions on Monday and Friday mornings using BBO, which have been successful in encouraging both experienced and inexperienced players in the Bedford area to play online. They have also had success in playing online teams matches with a number of different clubs around the country.

For my part, I held meetings with the club chairs of all Bedfordshire Bridge Clubs, whether affiliated or not to discuss how we could move forward, as well as attending online a number of EBU led sessions, supported by Pippa Green. The committee also met online a number of times to discuss how to move forward given the changing circumstances.

Then, in September of 2020, along came RealBridge. Pippa and I, along with Derek Marsh attended tester sessions and we realised that, whilst meeting together in a cramped room was out of the question, this medium offered us the chance to get back to as near normality as possible. A number of other early adopters around the County took part in further taster sessions and we realised that this program offered us a way back to not only play the game we enjoy but also to talk to people we had not seen for several months.

From that, the chairs of Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard affiliated clubs met together with the chair of Regis Bridge Club and, with the invaluable assistance of John Bateman and Derek Marsh, formed the Bridge Online Alliance. We now play online every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening and additional sessions for more relaxed play, encouraging less experienced players to join us during the day.

As you can see, a lot has happened in the last two years, since we last met at Wixams. At the time of writing this, I cannot foresee us meeting face to face for some time yet so we will have to be content with using RealBridge to play this wonderful game.

Before I close this first formal report to the meeting, we should pause to remember all of our former friends and relatives who have been taken from us in the last 15 months by this pernicious disease. There are, unfortunately too many to list here.

Finally, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all my fellow committee members for their support and hard work over the last year. All of us are unpaid volunteers and I have witnessed at first hand numerous examples where people have gone the extra mile to help fellow members of our community.

Colin O'Hara  
31 March 2021

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2019-21

CHAIRMAN – Colin O'Hara - 07900 083354  
VICE CHAIRMAN – Michael Collins – 01525 717852  
SECRETARY – Freda Collins – 01234 721145  
TREASURER – Pippa Green – 07715 566191

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMPETITIONS SECRETARY – Bob Sellers – 01234 720787  
– Derek Marsh – 01908 563948  
COUNTY CAPTAIN – Jane Jensen – 01525 381652  
BULLETIN EDITOR – Peter Scott – 01582 668488

### Nomination for BBA Officers & Committee Members for 2018-19

We nominate the following candidates for election to the BBA Management Committee:

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman			
Vice-Chairman			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Committee Members (up to 5 names)			

### Please return your completed forms to:

Freda Collins, BBA Secretary,  
44 Leyside  
BROMHAM  
Beds  
MK43 8NE

Alternatively you can email to [secretary@bedsbridge.co.uk](mailto:secretary@bedsbridge.co.uk)

**BEDFORDSHIRE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION (BBA)**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**Held at Wixams Lakeview Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**  
**Presided over by David Harris (BBA President)**

- 1. Apologies for absence:**  
The list of attendees with apologies received is attached.
- 2. Minutes of BBA AGM 2018**  
The Minutes of the AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were accepted as an accurate record.  
Proposed: Peter Malpass, Seconded: Colin O'Hara
- 3. Matters Arising**  
None
- 4. Chairman's Report**  
Michael Collins's report had previously been circulated via email. No questions were raised, but as this was going to be Michael's last chairman's report, David Harris asked that we thank him for his sterling work over the past few years.
- 5. Treasurer's Report**  
Copies of the treasurer's report and balance sheet were circulated. Rita explained that it appeared the profit made from Green Point events were keeping us in the black. The report was accepted.  
Proposed: Paul Kilduff, Seconded: Alan Cooke
- 6. County Competitions Report**  
Bob Sellers reported that all competitions had been played in good spirit, he thanked Jane Jensen for directing and scoring. The Swiss Pairs would be played at Bedford Club in the coming season. Derek Marsh reported that the new format for teams had been well received and we would continue in the same format. Jane Jensen reported as County Captain that as some members had left Bedfordshire it was necessary to try a new A team format.
- 7. Election of Officers**  
  
The following were elected en bloc;
  - Colin O'Hara (Chairman)
  - Michael Collins (Vice Chairman)
  - Rita Keable (Hon. Treasurer)
  - Freda Collins (Hon. Secretary)
  - Derek Marsh/ Bob Sellers (Competitions)
  - Peter Scott (Publications)
  - Jane Jensen (County Director/Webmaster)  
David Harris congratulated the committee, and said the membership owed a debt of gratitude to everyone involved. He thanked Janet Marsh who was standing down as secretary after 12 years.
- 8. Appointment of Honorary Auditor**  
Michael Collins
- 9. Presentation of Trophies**  
The trophies for the 2018-2019 year's events were presented to the winners. See attached list.
- 10. Any Other Business**  
Alan Cooke asked why Bedfordshire had not been represented in the Tollemache Competition again. Jane Jensen and the new committee will look closely at this in the coming year.

The meeting closed at 7.26 p.m.