

Bookham Afternoon Bridge Club
Treasurer's Commentary on Accounts for the year
1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022

2021-22

In the year from September 2021 we moved from online bridge back to face to face. Our first face to face session was Thurs 23rd Sept. On Monday 14th March we resumed face to face and stopped playing online.

Our costs increased with the return to face to face as we had not paid any rent during the year of the pandemic. We also now pay for the tea to be served on both sessions. We were lucky that Emma was available to join us again from March when we resumed Monday face to face. During the pandemic you will recall we were recipients of the government's furlough scheme and the last payment of this was received for September 2021.

When we returned to face to face we implemented various payment methods and finally we adopted the contactless payments using the provider Square. My thanks to Richard Skeet for his help with Neil in establishing which provider to use and how to do it. A small fee is charged for using this. Though more on this when I talk about this year.

We would like to thank members and visitors for embracing the contactless payment of table money. And a big thank you to the committee who have been at the sharp end when hiccups have been encountered with the system. Collecting table money this way has helped our admin considerably especially with the closure of the high street bank branches as it has become increasingly difficult to deposit cash.

The numbers of people returning to playing face to face has increased over the course of the year but has still not returned to the numbers we had pre-Covid. We had up to 27 tables in the February before the pandemic.

We also purchased a laptop for the duplimating of the cards.

Our accounts for the year show a loss in the year of **£571**.

Despite the loss this year we have the funds available to replace expensive equipment as necessary.

We held several charity events including the Andrew Robson day, all raised funds and we made payments totalling £2929 to: Children in Need, Queen Elizabeth Foundation, The Barn Hall and Ukraine. Thank you all for your generosity.

The accounts have been independently reviewed by Chris Pullan. Our thanks to him for doing this.

Any questions on the accounts for last year?

Can we now take a vote to approve the accounts for 2021-22.

May I ask for a proposer and seconder for the accounts. Vote.

Current year

Our rental costs have increased this year at a much higher amount than is usual due to increased energy costs. Other costs will also be increasing. We also need to provide for servicing of the duplimate machines.

We are experiencing reduced table numbers compared to pre-Covid and also a reduction in our membership.

Square – our contactless provider is increasing its charging from November, they are adding a 25p charge per transaction payment. To maximise the amount the club receives and minimise the amount we have to pay to Square we are introducing books of 10 vouchers. A single 25p charge will be payable on 10 vouchers not on each payment. We will continue to take payments on the day as single payments for those members not wishing to buy a book of vouchers.

Due to the increased costs across the board and our reduced numbers we are increasing the table money from 1st November to £3 for members and £4 for visitors. Books of 10 vouchers will be available for £27. (The reduction accounts for the saving in transaction charge.)

The committee recommends that the subscription for this coming year should be increased to £15 per member.

Although we no longer wish to take cash we will make an exemption for charity sessions. We are looking at the best way to collect monies for Charity and will be updating the members on this. Children in Need events will not be affected by the transaction charge being imposed by Square.

Subscriptions are due on 1st November and I will be available to take any payments either through the contactless machine or by cheque after this meeting. Any members not here today can also make a payment online. We will also start selling books of vouchers at the beginning of November.

Thank you

Sue McDonald
Treasurer
17th October 2022