

2023-24 Membership Report

Good morning everyone.

Since our last AGM it is with great sadness that I have to report the death of three members, including Jean Suckling who died in July shortly before her 93rd birthday. She was a founder member and chairman of the club. Bridge was her passion and at her funeral it was mentioned that she gave instructions that her funeral date should not be held either on a Monday or a Thursday!

But the club has also seen happier times with the enrolment of 26 new members, and we are so pleased that Ve Godfree and Pauline Zeronian have been able to rejoin us. Our membership now stands at 205 with 7 visitors applying for membership so we are nearing our maximum of 210.

I am delighted at the progress made on a number of fronts as detailed by Jerry. However, one cause for concern for us all, and in my view considerable concern, is that we were unable to fill the current vacancy on the committee. Our Constitution does not stipulate how many years committee members may serve but typically, after three years, committee members have stood down. Our present committee are all standing again and some will have served considerably more than three years by the time of the next AGM. If approved, this coming year I will be entering my tenth year as Secretary. The committee, in addition to other duties, play a very vital part in ensuring the routine management of the Club. Our Constitution provides for twelve committee members and the duties undertaken are not unduly onerous when spread among twelve. Having fewer than that can present problems because total availability for all our sessions cannot be guaranteed; we all have lives outside the club! I therefore urge all who feel able, in the coming months, to consider whether you could volunteer to join the committee or know of someone suitable who might do so.

I would like to thank all those members who have so willingly signed up as spare partner on multiple occasions. The host facility which we offer is one of our club's strengths. And as has been said on many occasions, if more members signed up the duty would be spread much more evenly.

I suspect that some of the membership contact details I have may require updating so I will be in touch shortly to invite members to let me have any new addresses, preferred phone numbers or email addresses.

Finally, I wish to thank the committee for their unstinting support for myself and for you as a club. Ensuring that everything is in place for our twice-weekly sessions requires a considerable amount of organisation and dedication, not to mention all the work which takes place behind the scenes and is undertaken by many non-committee members on the duplimating teams and coping with technical aspects. We all wear a number of hats where the different responsibilities and roles are concerned but when help is urgently needed there is always someone who will volunteer.

Bookham Afternoon Bridge Club is a wonderful resource for us all and it is our membership who make it so.

Thank you all.

*Kate Castree,
Hon. Secretary,
BABC*