

♣♦ BOOKHAM AFTERNOON BRIDGE CLUB ♥♠

Membership report for the AGM, 18 November 2021

Since our last AGM over two years ago, we have, with great sadness, learned that seven members have died, although thankfully we are not aware of losing any member to the virus. Nevertheless, the family and friends of Jim Tate, Sandra Simpson, Don Attwood, Mary Parkin, Graham Main, Rowena Ford and Joyce Munns will have felt their loss very deeply, happening as they did during the worst days of the pandemic; sadly, all that we were permitted to do in most cases was express our most sincere condolences.

We have had 21 resignations. Two of our very well-known members from years gone by have relocated – Sue Moss, a former Treasurer who also looked after duplicating and was very expert with IT issues, has moved away from the area, and Geraldine Brock, my predecessor as Secretary, to join family in America. Both continue to play online with us. Other resignations have been due to family commitments and the distance involved in travelling, while four members have decided it is time to put the cards aside, albeit with regret. In resigning their membership many have expressed a great affection for the club.

The loss of personal contact over the last couple of years has meant that the situation of a number of players is unknown. We have a sizeable inactive membership and it is not possible to keep in touch with all.

As has always been our practice, where serious illness has been notified I have sent get well cards to the members concerned.

A number of members are suffering from long term health issues and we keep in touch where possible.

Following the AGM in 2019 and before lockdown we were able to offer membership to eight waiting list visitors: Malcolm Frost, Pauline Norman, Helena Pollock, Sheila Price, Dorothy Green, Chloe Stone, Sandra Chilton and Michael Lomax.

When the club had to close during the first lockdown it was decided that we would not offer membership to anyone on the waiting list until the club could meet face to face once again. So it was with great pleasure that on the eve of our reopening we were able to welcome eleven new members: Diana Balfour, Michael Docker, Angela Duke, Adrian Filkins, Terry Gluck, Sonja Hamlyn, Geoff

Markson, Heather Matthew, Yvonne McConnell, Ian Seifert, and Keith Williams.

Karina Tyrrell and Trevor Allery have rejoined.

We have therefore, since the last AGM, appointed 21 new members. We have a list of 14 visitors wishing to apply for membership in addition to several who are familiar names on our online club. We hope some of them may now visit us in person at the Barn. Our membership now stands at 204, with seven vacancies.

Along with many members I have been grateful to Neil and all who assisted him in setting up online bridge which was a real lifeline in the darkest days of the pandemic.

I also wish to express my thanks to Neil and all members of the committee who have always been ready with offers of help when needed, especially now that we are reopening.

My greatest hope for our club is that we will, in the not-too-distant future, be able to play on both Mondays and Thursdays face to face.

It has been a huge pleasure to see those of you who have joined us on reopening.

It is our members who make our club.

Kate Castree

Hon. Secretary

BABC

November 2021

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