

CHELMSFORD BRIDGE CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021-2022

This AGM marks the end of my third year as Chairman and it has been quite eventful as we have emerged from the pandemic. The club primarily uses on line facilities for play but we hope to return to normal face to face play when the time is right. The Club's equipment (mainly tables) was moved to Hamiltons earlier in the year with a view to returning to face to face bridge ; however, the attendance was poor and the return was postponed. I will address this latter in my report.

My thanks go to the members of the committee , namely Colin Peden (Secretary), Julie Payne (Treasurer) , Cath Fox , Ted Cockle and Denis Anderson. A particular thank you to Audrey Hartley who acts as Director on Monday evenings. Other members including Jeff Jones have been very helpful with their contributions to supervised play on a Monday & Wednesday's. Our congratulations must go to Cath Fox who is now a Deputy Director of the EBU. I am pleased to report that the existing committee members are all willing to stand for re-election.

The Club's programme now includes regular play on Monday and Tuesday evenings , beginners practice sessions on a Wednesday afternoon and a session on a Friday afternoon. In addition "Social Room" bridge is available every day of the week. All of these are undertaken using RealBridge. Face to face lessons are provided on a Monday morning and through this it is hoped that we will encourage new members to join us.

On the subject of Face to Face play, there does seem to be mixed feelings with no clear picture as to the direction members may wish to take. On a cold and wet night in winter the prospect of going out to play seems less attractive compared with the convenience of playing using RealBridge. That said, we propose to run a series of Face to Face sessions once a month on the 2nd Friday evening of each month starting in September meeting at the Millennium Hall Great Baddow with tea and biscuit's. The Club's traditional programme of competitions has taken a back seat so unfortunately no cup winners, however we hope to produce a more simplified range of competitions over the coming weeks and they will be specific to the primary sessions, namely Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. We also plan to celebrate the Club's 70th birthday on the 11th November.

Finally, you will see from Julie's report that the Club is in a very healthy position financially with over £14000 in surplus. The Committee take the view that this money should be kept in reserve to be used should the need arise when we do eventually return to Face to Face bridge for purchase new technology that might be needed. We may also consider charitable donations at the appropriate time. Any use of these funds would only be implemented following full consultation with the members. In view of the surplus we propose to waive the membership subscription as a stand alone item and make the charge for the first game to include members subscription for the year. It is proposed that the charge per session on RealBridge be maintained at £2.50.

Valdie Poter

Chairman