

Cheltenham Bridge Club

**Trustee Annual Report
and Accounts**

**For year ending
31 December 2024**

**Cheltenham Bridge Club CIO
Registered Charity 1188825**



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Report of the Trustees

Governing Document

Cheltenham Bridge Club is a charitable incorporated association (CIO) which operates under a Constitution registered with the Charity Commission on 31 March 2020 and modified on 12 May 2021 and 27 April 2022. This Constitution closely follows guidance from the Charity Commission and the English Bridge Union. The registration number for the charity is 1188825. It is constituted under the law of England & Wales and operates in that jurisdiction.

The Constitution provides that the trustees of the Club shall manage the affairs of the Club and may for that purpose exercise the powers of the Club in accordance with its Constitution. The Constitution provides that there shall be a minimum of five trustees and a maximum of seven.

Pursuant to Clause 25 of this Constitution, the CIO has instituted Rules, approved by the members, for running the operation. Under these Rules, day-to-day operational details are delegated to a Management Committee, who are responsible for implementing decisions ratified by the trustees.

Objectives and Activities

Cheltenham Bridge Club (the Club) owns and maintains premises for the purposes of providing bridge playing opportunities for its beneficiaries, and for the teaching of bridge.

The objectives of the Club, as set out in the Constitution, are:

- The advancement of amateur sport by promoting the game of bridge for the benefit of residents of Cheltenham and the surrounding area; and
- The provision of facilities for the learning, teaching and playing of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Cheltenham and the surrounding area with the object of improving conditions of life.

Governance and Management

The operational activities of the CIO started on 1 May 2021 when it acquired the undertaking and all the assets and liabilities of Cheltenham Bridge Club, an unincorporated association, as a result of a vote of the members of the unincorporated association on 28 April 2021 to transfer the undertaking, assets and liabilities to the CIO.

Membership of the Club is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes and accepts the responsibilities of membership set out in the Rules.

The trustees, officers and Management Committee are elected by the members of the Club at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. The officers of the Club are the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The officers are members of the Management Committee, and the Chairperson and Treasurer are trustees of the Club by virtue of their respective offices. In addition, there are up to five independent trustees who are not members of the Management Committee.

The elected charity trustees shall hold office for a term of three years and may stand for re-election a further two times. Vacancies arising among the elected charity trustees may be filled by election by the members of the Club at the Annual General Meeting. During the year, additional or replacement trustees may be appointed by the members of the Club or of the other trustees of the Club. The maximum number of trustees is seven.

In planning the Club’s activities, the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

The Club is affiliated to the English Bridge Union (registered company number 358588) and, by virtue of this affiliation, members of the Club are also members of the Gloucestershire Bridge Association.

Trustees

The officers and trustees of the Club at 31 December 2024 were:

- Alan Wilfred Wearmouth Chairperson of Trustees
Became a trustee on 28 April 2021
- Helen Janet Bryant Secretary of Trustees
Became a trustee on 28 April 2021
- Nigel Foster Burton Became a trustee on 28 April 2021
- Ashok Kumar Kwatra Became a trustee on 9 April 2022
- James Anthony Elliott Simons Became a trustee on 9 April 2022
- Sophie Jaques Chair of the Management Committee and ex officio Trustee
Became a trustee on 30 April 2024
- Angela Gatliff Treasurer of the Club, and ex officio Trustee.
Became a trustee on 30 April 2024

During the year ending 31 December 2024, the following individuals were also trustees of the Club:

- Christopher Healy 9 April 2022 - 30 April 2024
- Jacqueline Saitch 13 May 2023 - 30 April 2024

All trustees were briefed on the role of trustees of Cheltenham Bridge Club, given copies of the governing documents of the Club, and referred to the guidance on the Charity Commission website relating to becoming a trustee and to the guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

During 2024 the recovery from the Covid period has continued to see increased numbers participating in face-to-face bridge but online participation has continued to decline, due mainly to the abundance of online games being hosted by the English Bridge Union. Face to face participations in 2024 reached 17,414 (up by 4% from 2023) while online participations declined from 3,484 to 1,946. Two of the most popular regular face to face sessions are “Gentle” which provide less experienced players, many of whom have learnt Bridge with the Club, a friendly and less formal introduction to club tournaments.

The annual Bournemouth bridge holiday was again sold out completely and remains a popular service to members. The Cheltenham Bridge Congress took place in August 2025 hosted jointly by the Club and Gloucestershire County Bridge Association and was comparatively well attended within the national context of face to face congresses becoming less popular and struggling to attract visitors. The inclusion of the Congress events for less experienced players saw a healthy uptake of participants from Cheltenham, elsewhere in Gloucestershire, and beyond. Participation is not limited to Club members in accordance with our stated charitable aims.

Teaching, in various forms, continues to be an integral and much valued element of the Club's activities and is publicised and offered to as wide a clientele as the Club can manage. The programme currently includes:

- A two-year programme of lessons from beginner, through improver, to club player level;
- An intensive "Learn Bridge in a Weekend" course which has proved sufficiently popular in 2024-2025 to add a second weekend session for the first time;
- A series of seminars hosted by experienced players, and
- A seminar given by Andrew Robson OBE, the celebrated international player and teacher.

The Club continues to rely upon and to value the efforts of a wide range of volunteers who perform various tasks ranging from directing sessions of play, helping to provide refreshments (which entered a period of transition during 2024 as the professional provision previously provided proved impossible to sustain due to commercial pressures), serving on the Board of Trustees and the Management Committee, preparing boards for sessions and helping to maintain the building. On Cheltenham Heritage Open Day (14 September 2024) we opened our elegant listed building to the public, with Club volunteers providing demonstration Bridge matches to a fascinated local audience.

Membership fees and table money are determined by the membership at the Club's Annual General Meeting. No change was made at the 2024 AGM.

Membership

At the end of the year 2024 there were 535 full members (2023 – 524) and 34 Student members (2023 – 32) making a total of 569 members of the CIO.

Premises

The Club is the registered owner of freehold premises at 4 Tivoli Road, Cheltenham GL50 2TG. The Club's principal office is at this address

Reserves

The Trustees consider it is appropriate to provide for the retention of reserves as follows:

- An operational reserve of £50,000 to cover an unforeseen short- or medium-term cessation, or forced relocation, of the bridge-playing and teaching activities taking place in the Club premises, and
- A sinking fund of £100,000 to cover the anticipated costs of a managed programme of refurbishment, repair and renewal of the Club premises, in view of their age and condition.

Strategy

The Club's Strategy Process has continued and developed and in 2024 entered a second major phase following upon the initial, very wide-ranging phase which attracted contributions and participation from across the membership. The second phase was designed to build upon the outcome of the first phase (with Strategy being defined as being of necessity a process which is never finished and is always being suited to the Club's situation). The wider membership was advised at the Club AGM in 2023 that the increasing difficulties in finding volunteers to fill specific posts (eg Health and Safety Officer) would inevitably mean that certain posts would need to be filled professionally in order to meet legal obligations if for no other reason. This would have cost implications including for session

payments by members and possibly annual subscriptions. A smaller group drawn from the Trustees and Management Committee was convened to suggest priorities for the Club following the AGM and this group recommended the appointment of a Club Operations and Development Manager. This recommendation was approved by both the Trustees and the Management Committee, professional advice on advertising, recruitment and employee obligations was engaged and an appointment was made from a strong shortlist of four with the successful applicant beginning work before the end of the year. Following upon the appointment the appointee, the Club Chair and the Chair of Trustees intend to meet early in 2025 to suggest how the process would continue in the light of the new appointment.

Financial

The club remains in a healthy financial position.

- The Club owns its freehold premises free of mortgage and has repaid borrowing taken out for past improvements to the premises
- Cash on deposit amounted to £195,000 on 31 December 2024, and total cash at bank was approximately £200,000.
- After providing for its current liabilities, the Club enters 2025 with net cash levels around £141,000
- The Club’s surplus for the twelve months of 2024 was £23,000
- As the Club enters the current phase of its Strategy Process, outlined above, the Trustees expect that in 2025 it will make a loss on charitable activities of the order of £15,000, assuming regular income and expenditure is similar to 2024. Ways of increasing the Club’s operational income are under consideration, and additional sessions have been introduced.
- There has been little movement on fixed assets with new Bridgemates being the only additions.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approve the report and accounts for the period ending 31 December 2024 on 10/3/2025 .

Signed *Alan Wearmouth*
.....

Alan Wearmouth, Chairman on behalf of the Trustees

Independent Examiners' Report to The Directors of The Trustee Company

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

I report on the accounts of Cheltenham Bridge Club for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- to follow the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Martin Howard

.....
Martin Howard FCA

10/3/2025
Date:

Hazlewoods LLP
Chartered Accountants

Statement of Financial Activities

Cheltenham Bridge Club CIO

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities						
	income	direct costs	net	income	direct costs	net
Joining Fees and Subscriptions	10,966		10,966	10,882		10,882
Table Money	49,067			47,102		
UMS in table money		-8,100	40,967		-8,099	39,003
Online income	5,046			10,269		
Online costs		-2,319	2,727		-4,529	5,740
Learners' sessions	3,049		3,049	3,392		3,392
Training Income	17,610			17,315		
Training fees		-6,460			-6,417	
Catering, Stationery & Courses		-647			-612	
Net Training Income			10,503			10,286
Rental Income	5,182		5,182	2,948		2,948
Bar income	18			28		
Catering costs		-3,020			-1,400	
Net bar costs			-3,002			-1,400
Special events	4,344	-1,917	2,427	1,123	0	1,123
Holiday Income	4,604		4,604	4,441		4,441
Donations and Fundraising	561		561	256		256
Investment Return (Congress)	809		809	1,200		1,200
Other Income	3,033		3,033	1,856		1,856
Total Income	104,289		81,826	100,784		79,727

Expenditure is shown on the next page

Expenditure	Note	2024	2023
Bridge Stationery		938	782
Equipment Repairs		1,306	373
IT Consultancy		0	306
Other IT Costs		1,051	1,174
Cafe costs		0	849
Prizes, entry fees		113	192
Directors Course Costs		0	180
Depreciation, Bridge Equipment	3	1,668	1,447
Total Bridge Costs		£5,076	£5,303
Building Repairs & Maintenance		13,920	25,413
Contingency reserve		0	10,000
Depreciation, Plant and Other Equipment	3	3,831	3,724
Cleaning		13,323	10,498
Insurance		2,305	2,578
Refuse & water charges		2,262	1,941
Telephone and Internet		600	600
Utilities		3,627	3,311
Total Occupancy Costs		39,868	58,065
Bookkeeping and Accountancy		1,369	1,342
Professional Services		2,956	73
Payroll costs		8,640	0
Total Administrative Costs		12,965	1,415
Youth Bridge Costs		0	190
iZettle and bank charges		205	210
Payments to charities from events		739	259
Sundry Expenses		145	239
Total Other Costs		1,089	895
Total Expenditure		£58,997	£65,678
Surplus from charitable activities	2	£22,829	£14,049

Balance Sheet

Cheltenham Bridge Club Charitable Incorporated Organisation

As at 31 December 2024

		2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
	Investment	<u>0</u>	<u>2,300</u>
Tangible Assets			
	Buildings	217,236	217,236
	Plant	5,013	7,521
	Bridge Equipment	5,799	5,662
	Other Equipment	81	189
	Furniture & Fittings	<u>4,266</u>	<u>5,483</u>
Total Tangible Assets		<u>232,396</u>	<u>236,091</u>
Total Fixed Assets		<u>232,396</u>	<u>238,391</u>
Debtors and Prepayments			
	Debtors	-0	- 0
	Accrued income	0	502
	Prepayments	<u>1,129</u>	<u>666</u>
Total Debtors and Prepayments		<u>1,129</u>	<u>1,168</u>
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
	Deposit Account	195,029	155,996
	Current Accounts	<u>5,160</u>	<u>15,090</u>
Total Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>200,189</u>	<u>171,086</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>201,318</u>	<u>172,254</u>

Liabilities**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	1,962	1,466
Accruals	5,305	4,680
2024 Subscriptions/Training in Advance	13,158	13,420
Member Deposits	9,088	9,112
Holidays Holding Account	24,706	26,000
VAT	5,202	4,503
Total Current Liabilities	59,421	59,181

Net current assets

141,897	113,073
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Net Assets

374,293	351,464
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Unrestricted funds

See note 2

Surplus Brought Forward	351,464	307,415
Surplus for the Year	22,829	44,049
Surplus Carried Forward	£374,293	£351,464

The financial statements set out on pages 9 to 15 were approved by the Trustees on 10/3/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Alan Wearmouth

Chair of Trustees

Statement of Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the CIO's Financial Statements.

Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (update bulletin 1 applying FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. They have been prepared on the historical cost convention. The format of the Statement of Financial Activities has been simplified when compared with last year, to enable members to see more easily the performance of the club.

Going concern

The trustees of the charity believe that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence at for at least 12 months from the date the report and accounts are approved and continues to use the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual Financial Statements.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are the charity's general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of any of the charity's objectives. Within the unrestricted funds is a designated fund that relates to the legacy received by Cheltenham Bridge Club from the late Derek Rue. These funds have been set aside for training and refurbishment purposes. The movements in this designated fund during the year are shown in note 2 to the accounts.

Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Holiday deposits are held in a holding account and recognised as income once the holiday has taken place. Payments into player accounts are recognised as income when the player has taken part in a chargeable session. Income from Bridge Base Online is recognised on an accruals basis.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred, when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure and the obligation can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

The CIO owns the freehold property at 4 Tivoli Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2TG. The property is an operational asset and is stated at a historic carrying value. The club premises were valued in July 2024 at £1.5 million

Other tangible fixed assets, comprising plant (principally the lift) office and bridge furniture and playing equipment (see note 3), are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The CIO capitalises assets with a cost of £500 or more and an expected useful life of at least three years.

Depreciation for assets other than the freehold property is charged on a straight-line basis at the following rates:

Plant and machinery	10 years
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Fixtures and fittings	10 years
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Bridge and other equipment	5 years
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Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 December 2024

1. Trustee remuneration, staff costs and contribution made by volunteers

During the period under review

- i) no remuneration nor any expenses were paid to any of the Trustees.
- ii) an employee was recruited during the year and the salary costs were £7,868.
- iii) the CIO was managed and operated almost entirely by volunteers

The teaching programme was delivered by self-employed tutors, the cost of which is shown as “training fees” in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The work of the management committee, and day to day directing of bridge sessions were performed by volunteer members of the CIO. Without the contribution made by volunteers, it is likely that the CIO would have had an excess of expenditure over income.

2. Unrestricted funds allocation

	Surplus at start of year	Allocati on for the year	Surplus carried forward
General Fund	315,243	-6,546	308,697
Maintenance Reserve	20,000	20,000	40,000
Contingency Reserve	10,000	10,000	20,000
Derek Rue Training Fund	5,816	-220	5,596
Derek Rue Refurbishment Fund	405	-405	0
	£351,464	£22,829	£374,293

The maintenance reserve is made up of £40,000 set aside for large scale maintenance to the premises at 4 Tivoli Road.

The contingency reserve is made up of £20,000 set aside for any unforeseen short- or medium-term cessation, or forced relocation, of the bridge-playing and teaching activities taking place in the Club premises.

The Derek Rue training and refurbishment funds are in relation to a legacy payment from said individual, to be utilised for specific training and refurbishment costs.

3. Fixed Assets

The building represents the club premises which is an operational asset and is carried at historical cost. The club premises were valued in July 2024 at £1.5 million

		Building	Plant (lift)	Furniture & Fittings	Other Equipme nt	Bridge Equipment	Total
		£	£	£	£		£
Cost							
Balance b/f	at 1.1.24	217,236	25,067	26,768	4,284	18,536	291,891
Additions		-	-	-	-	1,804	1,804
Disposals		-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/f	at 31.12.24	217,236	25,067	26,768	4,284	20,340	293,695
Depreciation							
Balance b/f	at 1.1.24	-	17,546	21,285	4,095	12,874	55,800
Charge for the period		-	2,506	1,216	108	1,667	5,499
On disposals		-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance c/f	At 31.12.24	-	20,052	22,501	4,203	14,541	61,299
Net book value	at 31.12.24	217,236	5,013	4,267	81	5,799	232,396
Net book value	at 1.1.24	217,236	7,521	5,483	189	5,662	236,091

Previously Cheltenham Bridge Club held an investment in a joint venture with Gloucestershire County Bridge Association. This joint venture ceased during the year.