

# **GREAT YARMOUTH BRIDGE CLUB CHAIR'S REPORT**

## **AGM 31ST JANUARY 2022**

To state the obvious, we have been through an extraordinary 2 years since our last AGM. In January 2020 none of us could have foreseen the impact a global pandemic would have on all our lives.

Bridge is a good reflection of what is happening in society in general & we have seen many changes within the bridge community in response to the pandemic. Many took to playing online and some decided to take time away from the game.

With the lessening of restrictions during the past Summer, it was a welcome change to be able to start playing 'face to face' bridge once again as a Club.

Prior to commencing Club Nights there was a great deal of work undertaken by the Committee to ensure we had a venue and environment conducive for playing bridge in a safe & relaxed atmosphere. I am sure you will all agree the move to Gorleston Golf Club has been a success and met all the objectives I set out above.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, & thank, all those on the Committee who have worked hard to keep the Club going since our return to play last August. My grateful thanks to Cheryl (our secretary & card dealer extraordinaire!), Tom (Club Treasurer), Lesley, Ann & Nick for their tireless efforts & supporting me since taking up the role as Club Chair.

It is at this point, I would like to formally thank our previous Chair (John Barker) & Treasurer (Joan Barker), who both decided to stand down from their roles, after many years of dedicated service to the Club. Under John's stewardship, we saw many improvements to the running of the Club & brought it into the 21st Century with the introduction of electronic scoring.

Since recommencing play in August 2021, we have seen approximately 5.5 tables a week & therefore have a core membership of 22 players. This is obviously down on pre-pandemic levels but is very positive considering other clubs in the Norfolk area are struggling to get

members to return to 'face to face' bridge.

Over the past 12 months the Club's bank balance has slowly been depleted, as detailed in the Treasurer's Report. Therefore we need to be mindful of future expenditure. One area of possible expense is the replacement of the electronic scoring apparatus, i.e. laptop, router & tablets. These have been used for some time now &, whilst it is difficult to say when, will need replacing in the future.

With this in mind, & looking forward to the forthcoming year, I see a few areas that need addressing:-

1. Funding the replacement of assets e.g. electronic scoring
2. Possible reinstatement of competitions
3. Maintaining membership at existing levels or, ideally, increasing them.

In conclusion, whether it is with me as Chair or someone else, the Club has an exciting future and I look forward to a further 12 months of enjoyable bridge.

S M Harris

Chair

22nd January 2022