



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/20

Period start date T 31/12/20

Period end date

Charity name: The Nottingham Bridge Club

Charity registration number: 1170537

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>1) The advancement of amateur sport by promoting the game of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Nottingham and the surrounding area.</p> <p>2) The provision of facilities for the learning, teaching and playing of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Nottingham and the surrounding area with the object of improving conditions of life</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>In planning our activities for the year, the trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee's meetings.</p> <p>Our focus can be broken down into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide regular sessions at which bridge can be played thus promoting the game of bridge</li><li>• Make the club as welcoming and friendly as possible to attract more players. The club provides a destination for bridge players of all abilities, many of whom are elderly. The club therefore is a place in the community for social interaction, as well as allowing for the mental stimulation (and associated medical benefits) that bridge has been shown to provide.</li><li>• Encourage new players through the provisions of lessons and other educational initiatives.</li></ul> <p>With the requirement to close the premises from March, because of the pandemic, the trustees have been very successful in transferring these activities online, while retaining the feeling of the club being a community.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Confirmed
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### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The CIO is entirely run by volunteers – both those serving as trustees and a large number of people whose contribution perhaps goes under the radar. The contribution of all volunteers is greatly appreciated – without their time and effort the CIO would not be able to function and certainly would not be the success it is.
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><b>Pandemic</b></p> <p>2020 came to be defined by the pandemic, which resulted in the Club premises being closed the day after the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>A rapid transfer to online bridge was made, with considerable support being extended to members to make the transition. Many members have commented on the benefits this has brought during the various lockdowns, as it has enabled them to maintain social contact with other members. Initiatives such as the closed facebook group and a monthly Newsletter were also introduced to reinforce the sense of a Club community.</p>

		<p>As the first club in the county to enter into online bridge, support was also given to other local clubs as they followed.</p> <p><b>Online Play</b></p> <p>By the end of the year, the Club was holding six online tournaments each week, and there were more tables in play at the end of 2020 than there had been a year before. Over 140 members were playing online with us. This has been made possible by the contributions of over a dozen members who volunteered to run the tournaments, aided by our rota organiser and scorer.</p> <p>The trustees continued the policy of giving free introductory membership to beginners. This resulted in a Wednesday evening tournament particularly aimed at less experienced players. An enthusiastic team are to be congratulated on their work in introducing people to online bridge and building up a tournament which regularly hosts ten tables.</p> <p>When it was clear that the pandemic was going to last for some months, the trustees decided to hold the Club competitions online where possible. The Poyser Cup, Max Radford Bowl, Eric Nunn Trophy and Cullen Cup were all held and, after a gap of several decades, the Jordan Cup for an individual competition was reintroduced.</p> <p>In the early days of the pandemic, when only two tournaments a week were being played, a teams of four competition was held, with five teams taking part. Some of these members are now playing in the teams of four competition run by the County. In addition, a Club team has participated with considerable success in an online international Danish teams of four competition.</p> <p><b>Teaching</b></p> <p>Andrew Scott decided that the online world did not provide a good match with his style of teaching beginners, so his course was put on hold. However, his enthusiasm for teaching could not be contained and Andrew has been coaching people individually, in</p>
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		<p>pairs and small groups in various aspects of the game.</p> <p>Graham Brindley made a very successful move to take his lessons for improvers online. Indeed, he now gets more people online than would fit into a room at the Club – and includes people who would normally fall outside our usual catchment area.</p> <p>Graham and Ian Dovey took their teaching partnership, developed with the South Notts initiative, online to teach a dozen local beginners. Initially seen as something of an experiment, the combination of BBO and Zoom has been very successful and has resulted in an enthusiastic set of students who have made very good progress.</p> <p>Ian has also been providing feedback on play at the Wednesday evening tournaments, to around thirty people who have requested it.</p> <p><b>Financial Position</b></p> <p>The pandemic has tested the financial robustness of the club and has found it to be firm, with the flat rents playing their part in covering the day-to-day costs of the premises, even when they are not in use. As a consequence, the trustees decided not to pursue grants that became available to organisations during the pandemic.</p> <p>The trustees took advantage of the premises not being in use to carry out a programme of refurbishment, overseen by Dave Treharne, Andrew Scott and Pauline Payne. The main components in 2020 were the replacement of the lighting in the Club with more efficient and environmentally friendly fittings, improvements at the entrance to the flats, and a brand-new kitchen. Other improvements and decoration are planned.</p> <p>At the end of the year, the Club's cash holding had risen by £740. This was aided by late receipt of rent from 2019, although this was offset by the fees involved in licensing the flats under the Nottingham City Council scheme. The licences last for five years.</p> <p>The annual accounts are produced on an accruals basis and give a better indication of the financial position, as they allow for the</p>
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		<p>phasing of income and expenditure, and also the depreciation of past and present (in 2020 the new kitchen) capital expenditure. The accounts show a surplus for the year of £1,265.</p> <p><b>The Future</b></p> <p>Membership continued to rise in 2020 from 220 to 270, as beginners moved from classes to free initial membership of the Club and others were attracted by our online offering. However, an appreciable proportion of existing members opted not to play online. The transition to online bridge presented a mix of challenges and opportunities. It can be expected that the return to face-to-face bridge will also not be straightforward.</p> <p>Throughout the pandemic, the trustees have kept a watchful eye on when we may be able to return to face-to-face bridge, and what form that may take. There have already been a few false dawns, but the trustees continue to monitor the situation and are committed to returning to face-to-face bridge as soon as it can be delivered in a safe way, consistent with government requirements.</p>
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**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The trustees decided to take advantage of the forced closure of the premises to undertake some improvements and redecoration. This has resulted in a planned reduction in the reserves, but less than budgeted as the income from online bridge has been greater than expected.</p> <p>The CIO has healthy cash balances and reserves and there are no going concern issues.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>At the year end we held cash balances of c£32,000 which consisted of unrestricted funds. These funds are held for unforeseen circumstances (in particularly around the property) and for appropriate expenditure required to meet the CIO's objectives. In particular, the refurbishment and redecoration programme will continue in 2021.</p> <p>The reserves of the CIO total c£266,000. This is primarily in respect to the premises (which have not been revalued for many years and therefore could be standing at a substantial gain). A primary purpose of the CIO is the provision of facilities for the playing of bridge and as such there are no plans to dispose of the property.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£265,991
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	No going concern issues. Due to the ongoing rental income from the flats above the bridge playing premises (supported by reserves), the CIO has sufficient funds to cover its costs.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The main sources of income are rental income for the flats on the top floors of the CIO's premises and the nominal table money payable for each session.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Where the CIO has surplus funds, there is an investment policy which allows for these funds to be invested on a short term basis, but at minimal/no risk.

A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Bridge has a reducing following in the country and the trustees are mindful of the need to always be seeking to attract new entrants to the game.</p> <p>The rental income from the flats provides a buttress to the activities of the CIO as was proved in the pandemic. Reserves are maintained as a safeguard against tenants who fall into arrears and any necessary refurbishment.</p>
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	
Charity's principal address	



**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
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**Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved**

Director name		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date		