



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/21

Period start date T 31/12/21

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	1) The advancement of amateur sport by promoting the game of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Nottingham and the surrounding area. 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
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	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. Our focus can be broken down into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide regular sessions at which bridge can be played thus promoting the game of bridge• 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.• Encourage new players through the provision of lessons and other educational initiatives.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Confirmed

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	Face-to-face Play The pandemic has again been a major influence in activities. In 2020, there was the migration to online play. In 2021, there has been a gradual return to face-to-face play. This has been particularly welcomed by members who have not played online. The trustees have always abided by government regulations. Consideration has been given to going beyond what is required e.g. by having temperature checks or requiring players to be fully vaccinated. However, the policy has emerged to go no further than would be required in visiting a restaurant. As a result, face-to-face play was reintroduced in May, in a form of teams where players stayed on the same table throughout so as to abide by the rule-of-six. Normal drives resumed in May. With the government's move to "Plan B" in December, masks were worn during play.

		<p>Numbers have slowly increased over the months, with nine tables at the Christmas party. There were four drives a week: Monday afternoons, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday evenings and Friday evenings catering for a range of abilities. A total of 144 players took part in at least one drive.</p> <p>The Bridgemates have been replaced by tablets. Players quickly became familiar with their use and found the natural interface and easy-to-read display an improvement over Bridgemates. Members of other clubs have visited to see them in action before adopting them at their own clubs.</p> <p>Online Play</p> <p>With the reintroduction of face-to-face play, the decision was taken to discontinue the Friday evening online tournament. Some members expressed their disappointment with the trustees' decision. Similarly, other members expressed their disappointment that the Tuesday BBO tournament had not also been discontinued to encourage more players to return to the table.</p> <p>At a committee meeting towards the end of the year, the trustees committed to continuing the Tuesday tournament so long as there was sufficient demand to do so. The Saturday tournament is to continue on the same basis.</p> <p>We had 201 members play in at least one online tournament during the year.</p> <p>The club has entered the county's 2021/22 teams of eight competition, fielding five teams – one more than in recent years – which is being played online.</p> <p>Teaching</p> <p>Andrew Scott resumed face-to-face teaching with the beginners whose course had been disrupted by the pandemic.</p> <p>Graham Brindley has also returned to face-to-face sessions for improvers, after establishing a very successful course online.</p> <p>Financial Position</p> <p>The club's financial position is very healthy. The annual accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, depreciating assets, and</p>
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		<p>recorded a surplus of £14,000. The increase in bank and cash was £12,000.</p> <p>As well as the tablets, new capital items were a computer and new doors.</p> <p>A cashless system for paying for face-to-face table fees was introduced on a trial basis. This proved a sufficient success to be carried into 2022. It has reduced the workload of the treasurer and improved governance. It is very flexible, allowing automatic billing for annual subscriptions and enabling hosts to be credited for free play at sessions as well as reimbursing members for small purchases.</p> <p>The Future</p> <p>The nature of post-pandemic bridge is still evolving. It looks as though there will be some form of hybrid between face-to-face and online bridge. However, the trustees place great importance on attracting newcomers to the game, and indications are that teaching beginners and introducing them to competitive play will most easily be achieved through face-to-face activities.</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	The CIO has healthy cash balances and reserves and there are no going concern issues.
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£46,000 which consisted of unrestricted funds. These funds are held for unforeseen circumstances (in particular around the property) and for appropriate expenditure required to meet the CIO's objectives.</p> <p>There are government proposals that mean the energy efficiency of all three flats will need to be improved for new lettings by 2025. Funds will be needed to carry out this work.</p> <p>There is considerable uncertainty as to whether there will be a government requirement to replace boilers with heat pumps or similar. This would be likely to require heavy expenditure and the trustees will be monitoring proposals as they evolve.</p> <p>The reserves of the CIO total c£279,000. 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	£278,830
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.

<p>A description of the principal risks facing the charity</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<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>
<p>Other</p>		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
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	Election by members

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	The Nottingham Bridge Club
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1170537
Charity's principal address	401 Mansfield Road Nottingham NG5 2DP

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)
1	Mark Goddard	President		
2	David Dunford	Chairman		
3	Philip Gross	Treasurer		
4	Melvyn Shepherd			
5	Gerard McCormack			
6	Stefka Samus			
7	Susanna Hollins			
8	Marc Gaudart			
9	David Treharne			
10	Pauline Payne			
11	Andrew Scott			
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

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		