

Chairman's Report

It's been a busy year for the committee which met 6 times roughly at 2 monthly intervals. A variety of matters were considered ranging from the more mundane but still essential to items requiring considerable thought and discussion such as the possible acquisition of electronic scoring (Bridgemate) or more recently Bridgepal which we understand is to be or has been introduced into Bridge Overseas holidays this year. Changes to the club's Constitution were introduced following a special general meeting in November and both these items had been carried forward by the appointment of two small sub-committees reporting back to the main committee at regular intervals. I am grateful to the members of these two sub-committees for giving up their time to consider these important matters and to John Gillespie (Bridgemate) and Hugh Basden-Smith (Constitution) who chaired them.

Another item which thankfully does not come up very often is changes to the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. On this matter we believed it sensible to act in concert with Southdown Bridge club and for both clubs to introduce the changes together following a series of mini talks by the Director of the day on a particular subject chosen from a summary of changes kindly produced for us by Colin Graham Hyde for which we were grateful. Thanks is also due to not only the Directors who willingly took part but also Alan Hughes who set out the programme of talks and their content.

Other matters included a survey of members views, early in the committee year on the way forward for future Club Christmas parties particularly on the matter of refreshments and how these were to be provided, the format of the evening and what type of bridge was to be played given that, with the numbers attending, it was never going to be possible to play all boards at all tables. In the event we hit on the idea of running two sections at the same time, each with its own director, which proved popular and I am grateful to Hugh Creamer, who also acted as MC for the evening, and Alan Hughes for their willingness to give this a try. In fact, their little quips to each other while directing were really quite amusing and added to the enjoyment of the evening. Thanks is also due to Michele Conway who, although no longer a committee member, joined us on our Christmas Party committee leading on the matter of refreshments and coordinating with the caterer as well as providing advice generally and to John Gillespie for his thought provoking quiz.

In September and following a straw poll the committee increased table money to £1.50 per person to provide additional funds towards the purchase of an electronic scoring system should members agree and there is a proposal from the committee seeking approval for such a purchase later on in this meeting at agenda item 9.

Sadly, in the middle of the year Babs Saker passed away and we were recently advised of the death of June Hill although she had not attended for some considerable time. Other absentees for reasons of health include Michael Shave, Shirley Rogerson, Pat Tyack and Barbara Harper but we were pleased to see the return of Margaret Reader following her stroke and Chris Evans following her shoulder injury.

Lastly, my thanks on behalf of the members to all those not already mentioned whose contribution ensures the smooth running of the club, including:-

Our Directors and Scorers

John Rogerson and Joyce Rowell for preparing new playing cards

Marie Bawden for sending cards to those who are unwell

Heather Hedges for acting as partner finder

The committee for their continued hard work not only as a committee but on their individual tasks

Our Secretary Carol Gillespie who labours away on the paper work and the website

And Hugh Basden Smith for his stewardship of our funds

And finally again to Hugh Creamer and Hugh Basden Smith both of whom are standing down at this AGM, Hugh C from the committee after serving for 6 years and Hugh BS after 4 years as Treasurer.