

Dear members

I do hope you're all keeping well and busy. Don't forget if you have any problems, either feeling lonely or needing help, please let us know!

We haven't set up any Summertown online bridge, partly because there was very little interest when we asked a month or so ago, and partly because other clubs, notably Oxford and the OBA, have set up such things. We hope that by sending you weekly bulletins, you won't forget about SBC and will come back and play at Maison Francaise one day. However, if anybody is lacking a partner for online bridge, do let me know and I may be able to pair you up if more than one of you writes to me.

Also, we'd like **volunteers for the weekly bulletins**. Most of the committee are taking turns, but it doesn't have to be just committee members. There must be some of you out there who could write something about bridge or about what you're doing to keep yourselves busy. Please let me know if you're willing.

As it would have been our AGM today, I've attached my Chairman's report and the accounts for the past year, kindly prepared by Eileen.

Congratulations to all the winners of club competitions over the past year, including the Chairman's Cup for the most improved player. Who won it this time? All is revealed in my report!

Happy reading!

Erica



SUMMERTOWN BRIDGE CLUB

Chairman's and Chief Tournament Director's report 2019/20

Another year has passed! Don't they seem to fly by? In the light of our temporary closure on 17th March, this report is going to look different from my previous reports, although I think it's still good to record some of the events and successes of the past year, comment on the club's financial position, and thank all who contribute towards making the club successful.

Summertown's 2020 AGM was to have been on 27th April. Our constitution allows us four months from the end of February in which to hold the AGM. We will review in due course what action to take on this. In the meantime all the committee are prepared to carry on as usual.

Some committee members have volunteered to send out weekly bulletins on a Monday evening. We would love others to help with this. If you are willing to send out a bulletin, please let me know. We'll then allocate you a date to do this.

I hope you're all coping with the current isolation, maybe playing online bridge, maybe not. I've read one or two bridge articles in the newspaper and play hands against the robots on Funbridge, had online meetings with friends and relations and with a German conversation group. Christopher prefers 'real' bridge, and has not ventured online.

The Club's accounts, prepared by our Treasurer Eileen, are attached. We put up table money a year ago and this means that we have a small surplus, rather than the small deficit of a year ago.

The committee reviews the Club's finances at each of its meetings. Our average weekly turnout over the past year has gone down a little, and we are not fully covering the costs of the room hire as well as other expenditures. What the future will bring is, of course, unknown, but we have very few outgoings in the present 'limbo'. Maison Francaise is not charging us rent.

In line with last year's decision to discontinue Children in Need sim pairs, we had planned to hold a fundraising evening for a local charity in conjunction with the Summer Sim Pairs on 20th July. That charity was to be Charterville Care, a local charity, which provides a specialist range of care, support and rehabilitation services to clients in their own homes or at dedicated rehabilitation centres (see <http://www.chartervillecare.co.uk/>). Hopefully we will be able to fulfil this plan at a later date.

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Here are some of our members' successes in other club events:

- Diane Coe and Linda Edwards won our Midsummer Pairs competition for the Bygott Trophy.
- Peter Finbow and Alison Withers Green won the Binyon Cup (our mixed pairs competition) this year.
- Sandra Nicholson & Krys Kazmierczak jointly won our 2019 Summer Ladder.
- Diane won our 2019-20 Winter Ladder.

Trophies for all these events would have been awarded this evening!

- Valerie Goodchild was awarded the Chairman's Cup at the 2019 AGM, as being the player who – in the opinion of the Committee – had improved the most. Valerie is now playing regularly for our Wessex League A team.



This year's winner of the Chairman's Cup was to have been announced at the AGM. Here is a picture of the trophy: the winner is TIM SHEEHY! Well done, Tim, and one day I will present you with this cup.

Holly continues to have great success in introducing youngsters to the game via the Junior Bridge Club. We are always pleased to see these youngsters on a Monday.

Our charity evening in aid of Flexicare was a great success. Special thanks go to Christina Hardyment for donating a considerable sum from the sale of her own honey. A total of £900 was raised, helped by Maison Française waiving room rental for the evening. In addition at our Christmas party we raised £684.70 for "Homeless Oxfordshire".

In the Wessex League at the time when the lockdown came into force our A team was in a position in Division 2 which means they cannot be relegated, with one match to play. Thanks to Howard for his first season of captaining the A team. The B team still had three matches to play, so its position is less certain.

This year there was a new venture with a Daytime League as a separate venture from the evening league. Neil has kindly taken on the overall management of this and run one of the two teams we have fielded, with Holly and Bridget running the other. Those who have played seem to have enjoyed it, but we await hearing from the OBA whether it will be continued next year.

I know that many of you are not in a position to give time to the Club, so I am very grateful to all those who have worked hard to support the Club over the past year. Firstly our Committee members: Steph, our Secretary; Eileen, our Treasurer; Bridget, our membership secretary, who also helps run social events; Sandra, who does all our duplimating; Holly, who runs junior bridge teaching as well as our social events; Christina, who, along with Neil Whiting, collects the table money each week; Christopher, who looks after the kitchen and the supply of biscuits; Moira who has taken on the sim pairs admin; and Judy who helps with scoring, and opening up and locking up when other keyholders are away.

The teamwork at SBC is helped by numerous non-Committee members:

- Krys Kazmierczak, Steven Bliss, Ruth Kim and Brian Wright direct for us.
- Krys and Cliff Pavelin act as scorers (Krys also maintains the Bridgemates and the club laptop)
- Howard and Roger Heath-Brown run our evening Wessex League teams. Neil co-ordinates the Daytime League
- Alison runs the host system (although she is currently 'on sabbatical' so I'm running it at present).
- Sara gets our trophies engraved.
- Betty, Bridget and Joanna regularly help with the kitchen when Christopher is away.
- John Cecil who velcros wobbly legs on our tables and made a door wedge for us.

Many thanks to them all, and to those who help clear everything away at the end of the evening.

Please note that an up-to-date **membership list** is available electronically from Bridget on request. Because of data protection regulations, it only includes contact details of those who have agreed to it.

Last but not least, thank you to everyone who has taken a turn as host this year, allowing anyone without a partner to come to the club on a Monday evening knowing that they will be sure to get a game. Happy (online) bridge to you all, and thank you for your support and friendship!

Sadly two members have died in the last year: Tony Lewis and Jane Matheson. We send our condolences to Loris and to Jane's family. They will be sadly missed.