

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2026

May I start by thanking you for allowing me to be your chairman for the last year, it's been an enjoyable privilege.

At this point we should remember our members who have passed this year: James Bugden, Jackie Jay and Norman Hardy. We remember them fondly.

Since leaving our premises at Warden Park the club has been a casual bridge playing club rather than a successful and competitive one. However, this past year we should acknowledge some very notable achievements by our members:

- Sussex league division winners (David Williams, Ed Barter, Judith Dingle and Adrian Alexander)
- Club was represented in the Sussex team for the Tollemache cup
- Brian and Sue Cutler and Steve and Sue Smith did very well in the David Pavey final
- David Williams and Colin Mallows won the Joe Gibson trophy for the SCCBA Charity Sim Pairs event
- Joy Mayall and Sally Bugden won the SCCBA Ladies Pairs
- Chris Jepson and Neil Watts won the SCCBA Midweek Swiss Pairs
- We also entered a team in the Garden Cities and have a team entered at Thakeham in May.

And our club competitions:

- Jackie Clinton venture pairs won by David Glossop and Sue Porter
- Mixed Pairs won by Anthony Gimson and Carol Watson with David and Andrea Galpin the top married pair.

In the Autumn we introduced some next steps learning sessions that were very well run by Neil and his able assistants Chris, David and Colin. Numbers dropped off but those that attended found the sessions informative. These sessions were following feedback from yourselves, we will continue to hold these in May and June, please try to attend.

Following responses to my initial chairman's letter I investigated the local area to see if there were any suitable premises as The Old School has its limitations. Following my investigations I can report back that we are at the best premises that are available to suit most of the club's needs. We have to take into account room size, storage, availability, parking and cost.

At the start of my year, we had to get the duplimator repaired, this was done very quickly by A L Fleming of Bishops Stortford.

We have to say a big thank you to:

- Rachael who does the card dealing, and to Paul who has taken on the job of taking the boxes to her when we need the job done.
- Everyone who has been using the voucher system. This is proving to be very successful, and thank you everyone for making prompt payment.
- Our Christmas festivities contributors Suzy and Mrs M for supplying nibbles for our sessions, and to everyone who attended and brought food for the NYP. Special mention again to Jane for doing the quiz, and to Ian for the table quiz.
- Chris Jago for organising the Bournemouth trip, and we are extremely grateful to him for continuing to take on this large task. Plus the people who run the sessions and help out.
- Our session directors and those that supply the refreshments and help to clear up afterwards – a big thank you.
- The committee members who have supported me this year, they have kept me in check. Although we will be sad to lose Alison and Rob, we welcome our new committee members who I hope will be appointed later.
- Alison has very kindly offered to take on the examiner role. We thank Robin for all his contributions over the years.
- Rob, you have been a brilliant Treasurer, very easy to work with and prompt in paying the bills. We wish Mary success in taking on this role.

And finally, thank you to you, our membership. I hope I've created an atmosphere where we can play competitive but enjoyable bridge; I've been told off too many times for laughing (mainly at my own expense). Please continue to support the club, we would love to see more of you at our sessions.

Colin Mallows
Chairman
WSBC