



# WOKING BRIDGE CLUB



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

I am delighted to present my eighth end of year report as the Chairman of your club.

In 2023, the club continued to rebuild after the pandemic, which seems a long time ago now. We began the year with an average of twenty-four tables a week, which rose gradually to an average of thirty tables a week by the end of the year. However, our membership of 152 at the end of the year was a further decline from the 2022 membership of 161 and 186 in 2021, despite welcoming 20 new members. The Treasurer has reported that the club made a loss in 2023 for the third year in a row, albeit this was a little smaller than the loss in 2022, and we did invest in a new computer. Our rent for the Dianthus Building increased by 10% at the start of 2024, and your committee took the unwelcome decision to raise our table money by £1 from February 2024 to enable the club to break even.

I wish to give warm gratitude to the many people who enabled the club to function well in 2023, and to thank them all on behalf of our members, especially Robin Lynch, who has retired from the Directing and Scoring Teams. However, we have welcomed Bon Simonis as a Director to join Joyce Bianconi, David Burch, Sheila Cockerill, Tony Cummins, Trish Lynch, Lynn Paynter and Sue Waters; and we have also welcomed Ian Fraser, who joins the other Scorers: Dave Andrew, David Burch, Cherie Duffy, Marilyn Frame, John Gill, Trish Lynch, Liz Taylor, Lynn Paynter and Sue Waters. Trevor Sweeting's dealing team of John Gill, John Lemmey, Robin and Trish Lynch, Rob Plastow and Tony Richards has remained unaltered. Caroline Bowden took over organising the Monday Host Rota from Pat Stubbs, while Vaughan Bull and Joyce Bianconi continue to organise the Tuesday and Wednesday rotas. Another important contribution has been provided by the many people who collected our table money: notably Joyce Bianconi and Tony Cummins. Other essential jobs took place behind the scenes: Brian Barrow once again audited our accounts; Joyce Bianconi bought our refreshments and organised our Tuesday Evening Christmas Party. Our Summer Party and Wednesday Christmas Lunch Party were organised by Sue Waters and her catering committee comprising Caroline Bowden, Stella Dutton and Anne Miller, who recruited several members to produce delicious meals. I particularly want to acknowledge the many contributions of Liz Taylor who organised the Director and Scorer Rotas, verified and uploaded our results to the EBU, maintained our website and managed our ScoreBridge and BridgeWebs systems. I also wish to recognise the contribution of John of the Dianthus staff who set out our tables and bidding boxes each week, made and served our refreshments, and tidied away all our equipment when we had finished. On behalf of everyone, thank you all.

Joyce Bianconi retired from the committee at the start of 2023, after serving for many years and filling the vacant role of Secretary, and I thank her sincerely for all her work on the committee. At last year's AGM, we elected Lynn Paynter as our new Secretary and also Anne Miller to maintain our complement of seven committee members. Lynn and Anne joined Tony Cummins, Pat Stubbs, Trevor Sweeting and Liz Taylor and I thank them all most sincerely for their service to the club as committee members. Early this year, Liz Taylor decided to retire from the committee and relinquish all her other roles, which leaves a large hole in the fabric of our club. I would very much like one of our younger members to offer themselves to join the committee, so that we can ensure continuity going forward. Meanwhile, I sincerely hope that you support the five of us who are standing for re-election for 2024.

Thank you, and I look forward to enjoying more bridge with you in what I am determined to maintain as our friendly, inclusive and welcoming club in the months ahead.

David Burch (Chairman)