



# WOKING BRIDGE CLUB



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025

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

We began 2024 with an average of thirty-one tables a week, which declined slightly to an average of twenty-nine tables a week by the end of the year. This was a little surprising as our membership increased over the year from 152 to 160. The Treasurer has reported that, despite both the increase in our rent and the fall in table numbers, the club returned to profit in 2024 due to the decision taken in February 2024 to raise our table money by £1.

Many people have enabled the club to run smoothly in 2024, and I wish to thank them all on behalf of our members. Each session has to be planned in advance, and Lynn Paynter took over seamlessly from Liz Taylor in organising the Director and Scorer Rotas, and in collating the Hosting Rotas, which were run by Caroline Bowden and Vaughan Bull for Mondays and Tuesday, and by Margaret Mansell, who took over the Wednesday Hosting Rota from Joyce Bianconi. The sessions could not happen without the boards prepared by Trevor Sweeting's dealing team of John Gill, John Lemmey, Trish Lynch, Rob Plastow and Tony Richards. And each session requires one of our Directors: Joyce Bianconi, David Burch, Sheila Cockerill, Tony Cummins, Trish Lynch, Lynn Paynter, Bob Simonis and Sue Waters; and the results have to be prepared, published and submitted to the EBU by one of our Scorers: Dave Andrew, David Burch, Cherie Duffy, Marilyn Frame, John Gill, Trish Lynch, Lynn Paynter and Sue Waters. The table money has to be collected and banked, mainly by Joyce Bianconi and Tony Cummins, but many others have helped. Finally, Sue Johnson has taken over from Joyce Bianconi to provide the wide selection of biscuits we enjoy during our mid-session breaks. Other essential jobs occur annually: Brian Barrow has once again audited our accounts; Pat Stubbs ran our membership renewal process with the help of Tony Cummins; Pat also took over from Joyce Bianconi to organise our Tuesday Evening Christmas Party; Trevor Sweeting organised our participation in three Sim pairs competitions; and, once again, Sue Waters and her catering committee comprising Caroline Bowden, Frances Dalton, Stella Dutton and Anne Miller organised our splendid Summer Party and Wednesday Christmas Party, with the help of their ten strong pastry section. I also wish to recognise the contribution of John of the Dianthus staff who, single handedly, 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.

As you may have noticed, Joyce Bianconi has passed on most of her previous jobs, and I thank her for all her help with running the club over many years. You will have read in the latest WBC News that Pat Stubbs has decided to step down from the committee and to retire from being our Membership Secretary, a post she established when it was first created in October 2016. Pat has been a passionate, energetic and supportive committee member since she was elected in 2017, and I am very thankful for her many cheerful contributions to our meetings. I am pleased that Anne Miller has volunteered to take over from Pat as our Membership Secretary, and wish to thank Pat and Anne alongside Lynn Paynter, Tony Cummins, and Trevor Sweeting most sincerely for their service to the club as committee members. I am delighted that Sangeeta Patel has offered to join us on the committee, and I sincerely hope that you will support her and the five of us who are standing for re-election for 2025, and the creation of the new position of Competitions Secretary in recognition that Trevor's role is not simply Chief Dealer.

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

David Burch (Chairman)