



# WOKING BRIDGE CLUB



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2026

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

We began 2025 with an average of twenty-nine tables a week, which increased slightly to an average of thirty tables a week by the end of the year. This was a little surprising as our membership declined over the year from 160 to 150. The Treasurer has reported that the club made a loss in 2025 of £1288, which can be largely attributed to an immediate unforeseen increase in our rent after we had reduced the table money by £1 from 1st August. We also invested in training three new directors, Julie Mabbott, Karen Murphy and Lesley Shanks, who join Bob Simonis, David Burch, Joyce Bianconi, Lynn Paynter, Sheila Cockerill, Sue Waters, Tony Cummins, Tony Richards and Trish Lynch. That is a large team matched only by our scorers: Dave Andrew, David Burch, Cherie Duffy, John Gill, Joyce Nash, Lynn Paynter, Marilyn Frame, Phil Jones, Trish Lynch and Sue Waters.

Several more people have contributed to the smooth running of the club in 2025, including our hosts, who I regard as fundamental in enabling members to be confident that we will always have a partner and also in welcoming visitors. So we should all thank Caroline Bowden, Vaughan Bull and Margaret Mansell, for organising the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Hosting Rotas respectively, and also everyone who has hosted. As well as directors, scorers and hosts, each session requires planning, boards, and biscuits. Lynn Paynter organised the Directors and Scorers Rotas and published them on our notice board and website alongside the Hosting Rotas; the boards were prepared by Trevor Sweeting's dealing team of John Gill, John Lemmey, Trish Lynch, Rob Plastow and Tony Richards; and our fine selection of biscuits were provided by Sue Johnson. The table money had to be collected and banked, mainly by Joyce Bianconi and Tony Cummins, but many others have helped. We should not overlook the contribution of John of the Dianthus staff who, single handedly, set out our tables and bidding boxes three times a week, made and served our refreshments, and tidied away all our equipment when we had finished. Moving on to contributions made annually: Brian Barrow has once again audited our accounts; Pat Stubbs ran our membership renewal process for her last time, with the help of Tony Cummins; Trevor Sweeting organised our participation in three Sim pairs competitions; and, once again, Sue Waters and her catering committee comprising Anne Miller, Caroline Bowden, Frances Dalton, Julie Mabbott and Stella Dutton organised our lavish Summer and Wednesday Christmas parties. Sadly this was the last time this particular team will be putting on the parties, and a new team will be taking over this year. On behalf of every member and visitor, thank you one and all.

Tony Cummins has told us that he is retiring as our Treasurer after nine years. The club is in such a good financial position because of his astute stewardship through the financial upheaval of rent rises and the Covid shut down. So, thank you, Tony, for all you have done for us over the years. Gavin Browning has volunteered to succeed Tony as our Treasurer and there will be a gradual transition over this year. Tony will remain on the committee, but Sangeeta Patel has decided to step down to concentrate on her role in the new Catering Committee, and I would like to thank her alongside Anne Miller, Gavin Browning, Lynn Paynter, Tony Cummins, and Trevor Sweeting most sincerely for their service to the club as committee members. I am delighted that Julie Mabbott has agreed to join us on the committee, and I sincerely hope that you will support her and the six of us who are standing for re-election for 2026.

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)