



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day 01	Month 01	Year 2023		Day 31	Month 12	Year 2023
From				To			

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Hitchin Bridge Club

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1140362

Dane House	
23 West Hill	
Hitchin	
Postcode	SG5 2HZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Margaret Elsie Eddleston	Chairman		
2	Richard Astley Jones	Secretary		
3	Robert John Girvan	Treasurer		
4	Roger Adrian Perrott			
5	Christopher Rice			
6	Pauline Girvan			
7	Elaine Duff			
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**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Association Model Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (converted from a Charitable Company on 27th May 2020).
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	All trustees are elected for a 3-year term. Each year one third of the trustees retires but they can offer themselves for re-election when their term expires.
<b>Additional governance issues (Optional information)</b>	By rotation at the 2023 AGM Margaret Eddleston, Christopher Rice and Roger Perrott stood down from the trustee board but offered themselves for re-election and were returned unopposed.
<p>You <b>may choose</b> to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;</li> <li>• the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;</li> <li>• relationship with any related parties;</li> <li>• trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.</li> </ul>	<p>The Club is an affiliated member of the English Bridge Union (the governing body of the sport) and of its County Association the Hertfordshire Bridge Association.</p> <p>The club supports and implements their policies.</p>

## Section C Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

For the public benefit

- (a) the advancement of amateur sport by promoting the game of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Hitchin and the surrounding area.
- (b) the provision of facilities for the learning, teaching, and playing of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Hitchin and the surrounding area with the object of improving conditions of life.

The Trustees have had regard to these objects when performing their duties. None of the Trustees receive any remuneration for acting in that capacity.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The Club organises several weekly sessions of duplicate bridge aimed at all levels of experience, runs annual teaching courses for people wishing to learn to play, refresher workshops for members wanting to improve their skills and has lunchtime classes for primary age children in a local school.

The club encourages members to participate in club, county, and national competitions and invites and welcomes members not living locally to participate in online sessions.

Members are encouraged to train as directors by attending courses run by the EBU, the fees of which are paid for by the Club. During 2023 2 members – Christopher Rice and Mark Savage attended the EBU Directors Course and are now running regular club sessions.

The club provides a round robin email partner finding service and has an online host rota where members can offer their availability.

The Club has a website, Instagram, Facebook, and X accounts. The club is a member of the Hitchin Forum.

Social events arranged by the club resumed in 2023 with the Anniversary Pairs competition at a local golf club.

There is a 50% discount for members on benefits or in full time education on all charges for playing, attending lessons, or participating in competitions.

Every year the Club supports Children in Need and the Herts Bridge Association’s annual local charity and donates its used packs of cards to local and overseas charities.

In planning all its activities, the Trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Over the last 12 months numbers at most club sessions have held steady or slightly increased but it is taking time for players to come back to f2f bridge after getting used to playing most of their bridge online.

The Trustees would like more members to try the Tuesday evening Real Bridge session. This is not only a friendly event and the nearest thing online to a f2f game but it gives players a chance to partner members who have moved away from the area.

Our Anniversary Pairs held at the Graveley Golf Club was very popular and it seems that there is a greater demand for more social bridge events which attract members from all our normal duplicate sessions. The trustees will address this in 2024 by re starting the New Years Party and introducing a new social format for the Combridge Trophy.

For members who are still hesitant about playing f2f we continue to hold 2 online sessions – Real Bridge on Tuesday evenings and BBO on Friday afternoons.

Online sessions offer the additional benefit of making it possible to keep in regular contact with members who have moved out of the area.

IN 2023 we held 2 Children in Need Sims Pairs and contributed £410 to that charity. The club heats for the HBA charity (Open Door St Albans) raised £168.

Our beginner's class which started in October 2022 ended the year with 24 students who will hopefully go on to join the club when the course ends.

Members are now back in one local school with a lunchtime class for years 5 and 6.

The reserves policy of the Trustees has for many years been to build up the financial reserves with the long-term intention of owning/building or renting dedicated premises for the club to give the club more flexibility and opportunities to expand and greater security of tenure.

Regrettably it has proved impossible to work in partnership with the local authority and it seems very unlikely this will change.

Whilst the pandemic has changed bridge it has also changed the retail and office sectors of the economy. Over time new and different opportunities may present themselves making it sensible for the club to revisit the principle of dedicated or shared facilities again in the future. The club will explore all and every possibility that arises.

The church still intends to rebuild the Scout Hut on part of the current car park site. Their plans have changed, and it is now proposed to construct a smaller modular building which will link to the present kitchen and toilets. Progress is slow but the small committee rooms have now been redecorated. It is also proposed to make some alterations to the main hall although these plans have yet to be finalised.

<p><b>Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)</b> You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policy on grantmaking;</li> <li>• policy programme related investment;</li> <li>• contribution made by volunteers.</li> </ul>	<p>When the new scout hut is completed, it will form the home not only for the uniform groups but for Feed Up Warm Up, the Hitchin Pantry and the local foodbank.</p> <p>This should free up availability in the main hall and offer the club opportunities for more f2f sessions when demand warrants it. The club and the church have an excellent working relationship which is mutually beneficial.</p>
<p><b>Section D</b> <b>Achievements and performance</b></p>	



Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

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## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

See comments above.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

All the Club's funds come from annual membership subscriptions, many of which are gift aided, payment for lessons, participation in regular bridge sessions and competitions. Some members make additional donations.

Some members raise small sums for the Club through Easy Fundraising when buying personal goods online.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees





<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Margaret Elsie Eddleston	
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chairman	
<b>Date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	

Table 1

<div>  <div> <b>Hitchin Bridge Club</b>  <i>Charitable Incorporated Organisation</i>  <b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b> </div>  </div>				
31/12/22				
<b>General Receipts</b>	Members' subscriptions	£	2,090.00	£ 2,240
	Gift aid tax refund	£	532.56	£ 515
	Table money	£	27,142.86	£ 25,404
	Deposit account interest - Redwood	£	2,617.19	£ 1,920
	Deposit account interest - C & C	£	1,748.99	£ 436
	Hire of prepared boards	£	510.00	£ 490
		£	34,641.60	£ 31,005
<b>Fundraising Receipts</b>				
	Easyfundraising/Amazon commission	£	127.51	£ 115
	Sales of surplus equipment	£	45.30	£ 17
	Other gifts and donations	£	42.50	£ 287
<b>Bridge School</b>				
	Beginners course	£	3,492.50	
	Teacher's fees	£	2,304.00	£ 1,188.50
	Refresher course	£	900.00	
	teacher's fees	£	600.00	£ 483
		£	36,345.41	£ 33,326
<b>Children in need donation</b>				
		£	410.00	£ 507
<b>Anniversary pairs</b>				
	Receipts	£	1,360.00	
	Expenses	£	1,590.80	£ 230.80
<b>Expenses</b>				
	fees to BBO	£	1,371.55	£ 3,733
	Fees to Realbridge	£	435.36	£ 497
	EBU P2P	£	4,166.00	£ 4,235
	Director fees	£	6,620.00	£ 5,740
	Assisted play - teacher's fee	£	-	£ 352
	Rent	£	9,406.00	£ 6,694
	HBA/EBU/EBUTA (entry fees etc)	£	4.00	£ 116
	HBA Marjory Lukyn donation	£	168.00	
	Prizes	£	500.00	
	Website/Scorebridge/internet	£	139.20	£ 139
	Insurance	£	74.70	£ 75
	Consumables, printing etc	£	330.00	£ 145
	EBU annual fee	£	28.00	£ 27
	Refreshments	£	644.46	£ 262
	Ukraine donation	£	-	£ 162
	Director training	£	327.36	£ 250
	Advertising	£	15.00	£ 15
	Sundry	£	113.79	£ 17
		£	11,361.19	£ 10,360

 	<b>Hitchin Bridge Club</b>		 
	<i>Charitable Incorporated Organisation</i>		
	<b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b>		

31/12/22

## ASSETS

### Restricted Funds

<b>Note 2</b>	EBED Schools bridge grant	£	70.32	£	70
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### Unrestricted funds

<b>Note 3</b>	Bank current account (Lloyds)	£	6,180.63	£	3,049
	Bank current account No 2 (Lloyds)	£	11,322.51	£	9,164
	Savings account (Redwood Bank)	£	79,816.38	£	87,199
	Savings Bank (CC Bank)	£	52,437.71	£	40,689

### Debtors

	unpaid table money	£	149,827.55	£	140,171
		£	3,460.40	£	1,538
	Prepaid new year party expenses	£	115.00	£	186

### Fixed assets

<b>Note 1</b>		£	-	£	0
		£	153,402.95	£	141,895

### Current liabilities

#### Creditors

	Prepaid table money	£	1,387.60	£	1,740
	Realbridge fees (November/December)	£	25.92	£	78
	EBU P2P fees (December)	£	299.52	£	645
	EBU BBO fees (December)	£	116.41	£	260
	Directing fees (December)	£	440.00		
	Unpaid Teacher's fee	£	600.00		
		<b>£</b>	<b>150,533.50</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>139,172</b>

### Represented by

#### Restricted funds

<b>unrestricted funds</b>	Opening balance	£	70.32	£	70
		£	139,101.99	£	128,740
	Increase for year	£	11,361.19	£	10,362
		<b>£</b>	<b>150,533.50</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>139,172</b>

## Notes

1 Assets include a Dealer 4 dealing machine, printer, laptop, Bridgemate server and handsets, 3 traditional tables (now for sale), filing cabinet, bidding boxes, sets of duplicate playing boards, tablecloths etc, all depreciated to nil. Also 24 tables kept in the Our Lady Church Hall and made freely available to other hall users.

2 The restricted grant from EBED for Bridge in schools was made in 2017.

3 The unrestricted capital funds shown in the accounts are intended to be applied by the club to obtain greater security of tenure by acquiring a dedicated building/space from which to conduct and expand their activities. It remains the policy of the trustees to build up and retain reserves for this purpose when appropriate and possible, to continue to search for any suitable property to buy/share or lease and to explore opportunities to work with other community groups with similar needs and aspirations.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination of Hitchin Bridge Club Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Club as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Mark Savage

Address: 21, Cromwell Way, Pirton, Herts SG5 3RD

Date: 10 February 2024