

Chair's Report for 2022

After the devastating effects of the pandemic, 2022 was for Bath Bridge Club a year of recuperation and consolidation. It seems strange now to remember that lockdown restrictions only finally ended in June 2021. Since then, the club has worked hard to re-establish itself adapting to what seem to be some long-lasting changes in the habits and playing preferences of our members.

We now run 5 face-to-face sessions, 2 online sessions and 3 teaching sessions at the club each week – that's 4 more than in 2021 and 7 more than when we moved from Twerton. We had over 3000 attendees playing competitive bridge at the club in 2022. We have just under 300 paid-up members. We initiated teaching seminars at the end of 2022 and have just announced four more for February and March 2023. All of this takes a huge commitment from our scorers, directors and teachers – thank you all.

Our biggest success over the year has been the provision of a structured Bridge course for beginners at the club. Stuart Bridge and Tina Cottey, our teachers, started their second beginners' course and a follow-on course in September 2022. We now have two teaching groups on Mondays with a follow-up online session on Wednesdays. These students are the future and the life blood of the club. They fulfill a key objective for our Charities Commission status and, as reported by our treasurer, in doing so add significantly to the club's coffers. We owe an enormous debt to Tina and Stuart who work tirelessly to make this fantastic new offer such a success. I would also like to thank the volunteers who have supported the teaching programme.

To enhance the teaching programme Trevor Purches and Chris Jones run an extremely successful Assisted Play session on a Wednesday. Thanks to both.

None of this happens without some key backroom people:

Firstly, someone that all club members know - Neil Purches - without whom the club would struggle to operate. Initially employed to open and close the club and move furniture to and from the store room, he now does so much more - the refreshments, duplimating and, more often than not, scoring and posting results. All this he does with a willing heart and a cheeky smile. Thank you, Neil, we could not do without you.

Secondly, someone most of you do not know: Pat Bunton – the chair of Oldfield Old Boys Rugby Club. During and post-Covid, Pat has been both generous and understanding in his willingness to support our club as we have slowly rebuilt table numbers, offering a very reasonable reduction in our rent and carrying the not inconsiderable fuel bill increases without complaint. Thank you, Pat, we very much appreciate your support.

And now to our committee. How would we function without the dedication and hard work of these volunteers who give freely of their time and have to put up with me as well? Thank you all.

I'd like to take the liberty of picking out three committee members for particular thanks and recognition. I pretty much strong-armed Marion Loudoun to take over again as secretary last year and she has been a fantastic support to me and the club. Trevor Purches has been on the committee for some time now and has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the club and members – he has taken on so many jobs that I don't know where to start. Thank you, Trevor.

Chris Jones, in addition to all his other roles, has taken responsibility to produce a monthly email with updates and information about the club. He also spends large amounts of time maintaining our excellent website – I do love the Hand of the Week – thank you so much Chris.

Finally, our one committee member standing down this year - Paul Hatvany. You all know Paul – he is the man that reminds you constantly that you owe the club money or informs you of your balance in your personal account. Paul, with the help of Richard Turner, moved our payments system 'into the twenty-first century' and has maintained it completely on his own. But, more significantly, he has kept a tight control on club finances over some very challenging times with the result that this year we have actually seen our reserves increase. Paul also moved some of our reserves to the Redwood Bank, and so ensured that these reserves are earning us some interest. We are very sad to see you go as Treasurer Paul and are enormously grateful for your dedication and hard work. Thank you.

Finally, can I thank all our members who have supported the club during 2022. Numbers at face-to-face sessions are gradually improving but with over a 100 paid up members still not participating in any of the club offerings I am certain that there is significant scope for getting more people back. Clearly lots of us 'found' online bridge during the pandemic and liked it. But nothing quite replaces the social and competitive atmosphere of a full bridge club session and two, three or four tables simply does not seem to cut it. While it is great to have lots of new students coming through, without lively and well-attended sessions for them to continue their bridge journey, it may be pointless! So please keep coming back to our 'live' sessions and encourage your partners and friends to return too. If you have ideas of how to make our club even better during 2023 please contact me or any committee member.

Paul Cooper

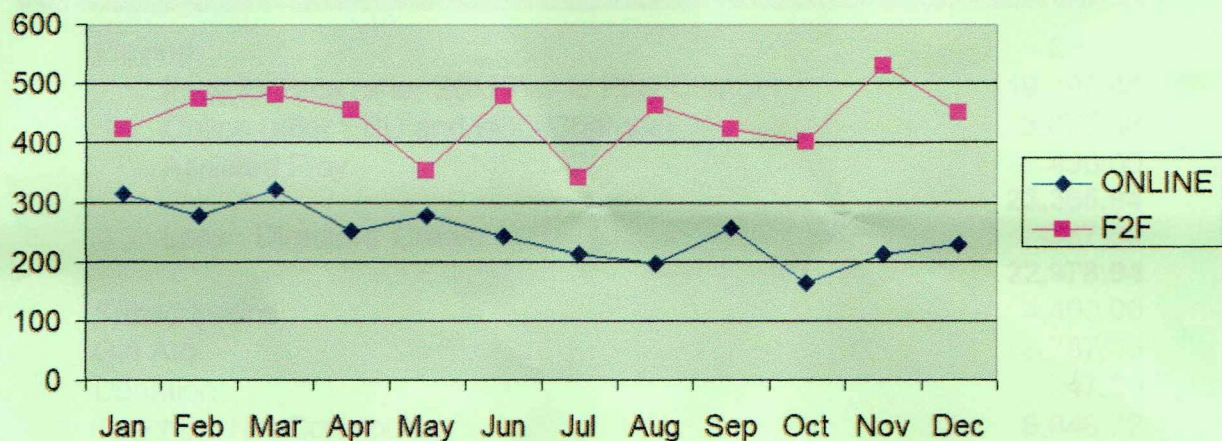
Chair BBC

bathBCchair@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Paul Cooper', written over the email address.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR BATH BRIDGE CLUB - 2022

Our monthly F2F and Online numbers during 2022 are best shown in the following graph:



During the year there were 2,958 online players and 5,289 F2F players. This compares with the 12,000 annual player appearances pre-covid.

So whilst our playing income during 2022 is considerably beneath our pre-covid level, this reduction in income has been largely offset by the huge effort made to recruit and teach new students. The resultant profit contribution from this teaching has turned what would have been a small loss for the club into a significant profit.

The **Teaching Net Contribution** as shown in the Accounts is arrived at as follows:

	£	£
Teaching Fees		15,939.00
Text Books	1,394.00	
Teacher Training	125.00	
Real Bridge	233.28	
Teacher's Pay	7,338.00	9,090.28
		6,848.72

The **Miscellaneous expenditure** of **£689.81** shown in the Accounts includes Nicko entries £126, Committee leaving presents £162, Bridgewebs Subscription £167, Bridgetab Licences £118 and various minor items.

To summarise, we have emerged from the covid years with our reserves intact and a small ongoing monthly surplus of income over expenditure.

Prepared by Paul Hatvany

Reviewed / Audited by Chris Chatfield

C. Chatfield

Bath Bridge Club Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2022

Income

Playing:	£
Face to Face (after EBU Pay to Play Charge)	19,197.46
Online (after EBU and BBO Charges)	3,678.48
Assisted Play	490.00
	23,365.94
Less - Directors' Credits	-387.00
	22,978.94
Subscriptions	4,400.00
Gift Aid	787.35
Donations	47.50
Teaching Net Contribution	6,848.72
Total	35,062.51

Expenditure

EBU Insurance	221.99
Fees	27.00
Rent - Rugby Club	9,778.62
Club Caretaker	15,411.73
Equipment (Scoring, Tablets, Screens etc)	556.87
Refreshments	1,995.77
Miscellaneous	689.81
Total	28,681.79

Surplus/Deficit during year

6,380.72

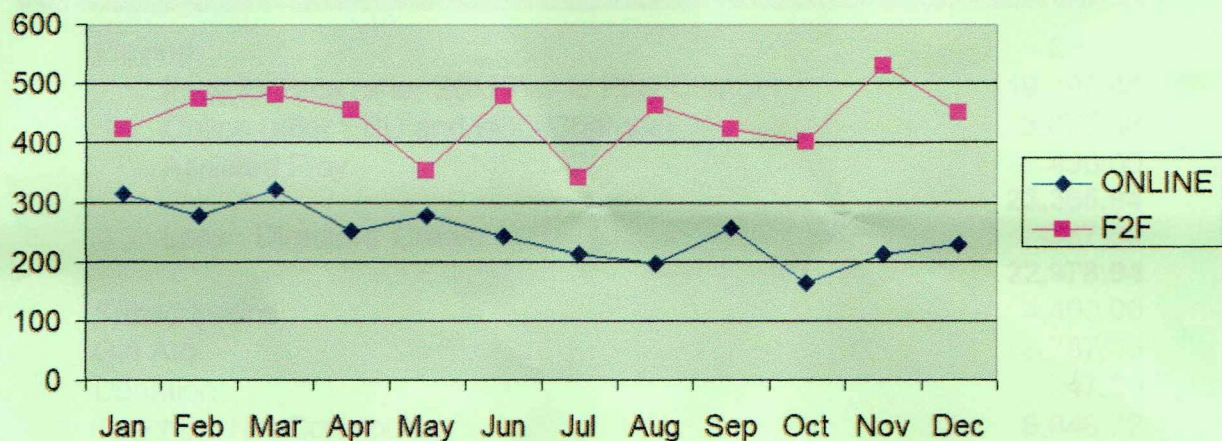
	£
Opening Bank Balance	66,489.58
Less - Opening Playing Floats	-4,708.00
Adjusted Bank Balance at start of year	61,781.58
Redwood Bank One Year Savings	50,000.00
Closing Bank Balance	26,252.80
Less - Closing Playing Floats	-5,390.50
- Student Fees received for 2023	-2,700.00
TRUE WORTH at end of year	68,162.30

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