

Retford Bridge Club
Registered Charity 1166225

Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 30 September 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1166225

Registered office

8 Mattersy Road
Sutton-cum-Lound
Retford
Notts DN22 8PW

Trustees

Name + Office	Elected	Current status
Keith Abel (Secretary)	2018	Re-elected Jan 2021
Sandy Fulton	2017	Chair 2017- 2023 Re-elected Jan 2023
David Garside	2019	Co-opted July 2018, re-elected Jan 2022
Ian Maxwell	2019	Co-opted July 2018, re-elected Jan 2022
John Rolph (Chair)	2020	Elected Chair Jan 2023
Tessa Rolph	2018	Re-elected Jan 2021
Julia Staniforth	2019	Co-opted July 2018, re-elected Jan 2022
Roger Stock (Treasurer)	2022	Co-opted Nov 2021

Independent Examiner

Harrison Shipley
Chartered Certified Accountants
35 Potter Street
Worksop
Nottinghamshire S80 2AE

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its Governing Document, a Model Constitution for a Bridge Club incorporated as a CIO affiliated to the English Bridge Union and Nottinghamshire County Bridge Association

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Elected trustees are fully responsible for the Club whose day to day activities are run by a committee comprising mostly of all the Trustees.

Vacancies for trustees are advertised amongst all members with elections voted upon at the Annual General Meeting.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The trustees have identified no major risks in the year. Club events are held in premises rented from the Local Authority and the Club observes their rules. Club assets and members and Trustees liabilities are covered by Insurance arranged through English Bridge Union organised policy.

Retford Bridge Club
Registered Charity 1166225
2
Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 30 September 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

To advance the education of the general public in bridge in particular by:

- (a) Promoting the game of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Retford and the surrounding area.
- (b) The provision of facilities for the learning, teaching and playing of bridge for the benefit of the residents of Retford and the surrounding area with the object of improving their conditions of life.
- (c) Advancement of amateur sport by promoting the game of Bridge by providing a venue for bridge players competing in a social competitive environment to learn and improve their skills at the game.

Activities

In planning our activities for the year we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

The Club organizes two weekly evening sessions (Tuesday hybrid and Thursday Realbridge), which are open to players of all standards. It supports a qualified teacher and holds a weekly Wednesday Afternoon Session (Realbridge) for less experienced players in particular. The aim is to encourage, teach and enhance skills of inexperienced players and new members and to provide further training for experienced players, all of which will improve their conditions of life.

Members of the club support the Bassetlaw Hospice by making donations at one or more annual fundraising events. Used playing cards are regularly donated to a cancer charity. With the advent of Realbridge the club has participated in online bridge events for other national charities such as Children in Need, with members encouraged to make online donations and table fees suspended for the session(s) in question.

The Club has supported one or more team of 8 players in the Nottinghamshire County Bridge Association league and some smaller teams of 4 in the Nottinghamshire County and English Bridge Union National competitions.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Club's seventh year as a Registered Charity was a successful one as it continued to re-establish itself and find a new identity following the Coronavirus Pandemic. John Rolph has taken on the role of Chair very ably, with assistance from Sandy Fulton, who has agreed to become Vice Chair subject to the approval of the membership at the January 2024 AGM.

Having established Realbridge for three weekly sessions following Covid and recruited new members from different parts of the country, we continued to attract new members from different areas. Unsurprisingly some new members left us, as their own clubs returned to F2F Bridge, but in spite of this our membership remained strong at 88 members.

The Tuesday night hybrid session, which began in October 2021, continues to regularly attract 8-9 tables in total across both formats, with three or four tables on average at Hallcroft. The merging of scores has caused some unhappiness and we may have lost some members as a result of it. However we remain committed to support the F2F game. A Sunday afternoon social event in April 2023 was well attended, and £430.50 was raised on behalf of the Bassetlaw Hospice. Further such events will be planned for 2024, including the AGM on Friday 5th January.

Retford Bridge Club
Registered Charity 1166225

3

Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 30 September 2023

We are grateful to Sandy Fulton for continuing his online teaching sessions, in spite of his move away from Bassetlaw. His lessons facilitate the introduction of new potential members and this has been helped by the Wednesday afternoon Improvers session.

The club entered one team for the Nottinghamshire Teams of Eight competition. Many players were discouraged by the choice of formats, F2F or BBO, although one or two teams did agree to play on Realbridge. The club feels that Realbridge is a far superior platform, but other clubs in Notts have largely not embraced it as yet. The Retford team were eventually placed third behind Gambit and Aldercliffe despite a poor start to the season. As a result it was decided that the club would not enter a team for the 2023-4 competition, since so few members wanted to play on formats other than Realbridge. Our views on the subject have been shared with the NCBA.

Trophies were awarded at the AGM in January as planned and it was good to see new members sharing in the trophy awards. Sandy Fulton was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the club in recognition of many years' distinguished service as Chair of the club.

The club has a number of teams for both dealing and scoring. Any member interested in either teaching or directing is encouraged to approach a trustee or member of the committee. Training is available.

The club has a website, which is well maintained and has appropriate links to the EBU and NCBA. Many thanks should go to Dr Ian Maxwell for his ongoing work on this and his on-going efforts to improve the presentation and content. All details are available for current and prospective members and visitors. All club duplicate results can be found there, with details of all club competitions.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Gerald Bailey, a long serving member of Worksop Bridge Club who joined us online during the Pandemic. Gerald was housebound as a result of a debilitating health condition but played regularly at the club in spite of his deteriorating health. He managed to win three trophies in 2021 and 2022 and made a lot of new friends.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Following registration as a Charity the club has reclaimed Tax annually on membership. Collection of Membership subscriptions resumed for 2021/22 and gift aid has been claimed on the £10 annual fee where possible.

The club has registered a surplus of income and expenditure. Details are set out in the Accounts. This continues to be due to the popularity of the Realbridge sessions and we have continued to keep our table fees in both formats as low as possible at £1.50, as well as reducing our Membership fee from £20 to £10. The Face to Face sessions at Hallcroft are running on a break even basis.

Stationery costs have been minimal as all club activities have been online. We have not purchased any new equipment and should be mindful that equipment is getting older and will not last forever.

Many thanks to Roger Stock who has continued to grow into the role of Treasurer with great efficiency and assurance and is helping the club plan its future with his budget forecasts for the coming year.

Reserves

The Club usually budgets for break-even figures for income/expenditure and this has been achieved mainly as a result of our online activities. Reserves are sufficient to cover any costs of replacing IT equipment, or the Club's Dealing Machine, should that become necessary.

Retford Bridge Club
Registered Charity 1166225

4

Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 30 September 2023

Membership Fees and Table money

Our budgeting has been helped by Bassetlaw District Council's decision to allow us a Senior Citizens' rate for the hire of the Centre. This makes relatively small sessions still financially viable. The charge for Realbridge sessions is £1.50 which allows us to make a modest surplus from these sessions once Realbridge fees and EBU Pay2Play fees have been paid. Our fees compare very favourably with those of other clubs and provide good value for money for our members.

We offered one free afternoon of social bridge during the year and this was greatly appreciated. We are committed to using surplus funds to promote Bridge playing locally whenever we can.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



.....
John Rolph
Chair

5.01.2024



.....
Roger Stock
Treasurer

5th January 2024