

Hitchin Bridge Club and its relationship with Hitchin, the local and wider community.

The club is affiliated to the English Bridge Union, the governing body of the game and also to the county association Hertfordshire Bridge. One of the youngest clubs in the county it started in 2000 with a group of 8 players, has grown over the years and now has 268 members. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (charity number 1140362).

The club has a website – hitchinbridgeclub.org.uk and Twitter and Facebook accounts.

It believes in being an important part of the town and is very much involved in the Hitchin community and supports activities in the town whenever it can.

Members dressed as the King of Spades and Queen of Hearts ran in one of the annual pancake races,

Members regularly take part in the annual Big Hitchin Tidy Ups.

Stalls in the market square with members playing bridge have been part of several community open days.

Last year we joined in the Hitchin Library's new community event promoting clubs and local societies.

For several years, the club ran a fun Café Bridge event as part of the Hitchin Festival involving restaurants in Sun Street and Bucklersbury with Bridge HQ at the Sun Hotel. All profits (usually about £350) went to the Hitchin Initiative and it brought welcome business to the participating restaurants.

The club intended to enter the soapbox derby in 2020 but Covid 19 has prevented that.

The club runs Children in Need Sims Pairs competitions in November each year usually raising £800, hosts a special charity bridge event each year, donates its used cards to local social groups, Christmas boxes and African children, and collects stamps for the Orkney RLNI. Members sell homemade jams, chutneys, honey, handmade greetings cards and garden produce for charity to other members.

The club is a member of the Hitchin Forum.

As the club was the first mind sports organisation to obtain charitable status the chairman has assisted many other bridge and chess clubs with their applications for charitable status on a pro bono basis over the last few years. She has also helped bridge clubs find funding for equipment from Awards for All and helped with their applications.