

Welcome to Peebles, on behalf of the Committee and myself, not forgetting our membership, which, unfortunately has dropped just under the 100 mark following the untimely deaths of two of our longest-standing and most enthusiastic members during the winter months.

Initially, thanks have to go to Reg Drysdale for his experienced help and support, during the first year of our stewardship of the B.A.B.C.. Secondly, the brunt of steering us through previously uncharted territory must go to Norman, our secretary, who has worked long and hard organizing the several events that have taken place.

The annual match against Edinburgh was played here in Peebles in September last and went very well, with Edinburgh winning yet again, although they were given a close run for their money!

Unfortunately, the Autumn Pairs event, due to be played on 25<sup>th</sup> November, had to be cancelled due to lack of support. The reason suggested, was that the travelling in terms of time and distance, for many of the would-be participants, was excessive. At this point, I would like to express the regret of the Peebles Club, that other members of the B.A.B.C. are apparently unwilling to make the journey to Peebles, when, in the past, many of our own members have made trips to far-flung corners of the Borders to support its empire's events.

The Spring Pairs event was held in the Focus Centre, Galashiels, in early March, and was I believe very well attended, with a turnout of 35 couples. The winners were Val Fairbairn and J. Bunyan of the Kelso Club. Our congratulations go to both of them.

This venue appeared acceptable to all.

There was a complaint that Kenny Watson and his partner Tim McKay played in the event in contravention of the rules laid down in the B.A.B.C. constitution, and should not therefore have competed. This complaint confirmed by the Peebles committee and the prize money returned and re-allocated. Kenny has requested that their entry money be refunded, and I would respectfully suggest that this request be favourably considered.

The Knock-Out Tournament has been run but, at the moment there is no report as to who is winning.

Out of these several items, some questions have appeared which I feel may be worthy of fuller discussion and I shall deal with each separately.

1. Is it always the case that the match against Edinburgh is held at a Borders venue? If so, why?
2. In view of the apparent difficulty of many folk in travelling protracted distances' could a case be made out for having a venue in a central position reasonably equidistant for most potential participants?
3. The wording of a section of the B.A.B.C. Constitution viz. A.3. Membership is possibly a little confusing, especially for us at Peebles. I should explain that, in view of declining interest in the game of bridge, and despite our best efforts to excite public interest, by teaching and advertising extensively, we have failed to attract new members. It was therefore decided at our last AGM to remove the boundaries of Peeblesshire, or, if you prefer Tweeddale, as requirements of membership, and as cited in the Constitution. Membership is now open to all. Thus we unwittingly created the situation of Tim McKay who is resident in Edinburgh, but who would like the opportunity to play at Peebles when circumstances allow. There is thus, you will see, this discrepancy between our constitution and that of the B.A.B.C.. Perhaps you would like to debate this matter, and, in particular consider a possible amendment to the section I have mentioned above, especially in the light of event participation.
- 4.

**BORDER ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE CLUBS**

**2007/08 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16th May 2008**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2007/08**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Balance c/f 2006/07	388.55		
Edinburgh Match	240.00	Edinburgh Match	
		Hall Rental	40.00
		Catering	124.20
Knockout Teams		Knockout Teams	
7 Teams	56.00	Prizes	40.00
		Engraving 2006/07	10.00
		Engraving 2007/08	10.00
Spring Pairs		Spring Pairs	
35 Pairs x £8	280.00	Hall Rental	50.00
Prize Money Refunded	28.00	Catering	44.88
		Prizes	140.00
		Prizes Corrected	28.00
Bank Interest	5.05	Photocopying	4.32
		Bank	
Membership Fees	35.00	Sav. Acc	163.89
		Chq Acc	455.31
		Less O/S chqs	50.00
			28.00
		Total	541.20
	<u>1032.60</u>		<u>1032.60</u>

Outstanding at Y/E cost of engraving Spring Pairs Trophy.

**AGM Agenda**

**Chairman's welcome**  
**Apologies**  
**Minutes AGM 2006/07**  
**Business Arising**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**Annual Subscriptions**  
**2008/09 Competitions**  
**AOCB**