

COMPETITION'S SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

It's been a straight forward season for the competitions this year with exciting conclusions for some. I must thank all our directors for carrying out this essential duty. We can't function without them. Sandy has returned, I'm glad to say & Terry also has stepped in when a vacancy occurred for the MacDonald competition. I had hoped that he would not be required as I feel he does his fair share already with dealing the boards and being the Congress Convener.

I'm using everyone available at the present time so if anyone feels that they could help out in this field please come forward.

I think you will agree that all our recent directors are growing visibly in confidence. For example Sandy urging us to share responsibilities to speed up play and Christopher is worrying about what our hands are doing.

Of course, our more experienced directors ouse confidence anyway.

As far as scoring is concerned there are now four of us – Me, Marilyn (who seems rock solid) Paul (as backup -who is omnipotent – so he tells me) & Brian. This is the Brian Breakthrough Year. It hasn't been easy because he seemed to bring along a plague of glitches. So he had several false starts. Computer problems or something he hadn't encountered before. It seemed that fate was against us. But no longer. He has triumphed.

I now return home & go to bed. No longer am I pacing the floor like an expectant father waiting for the phone to ring or an "It's not uploading. I'm sending you the file" email. I am relaxed – sanguine.

I would like to say that when a score or an entry is incorrectly entered on the Bridgemates, please tell the scorer or director or me at the time. It is so much easier to correct there & then or at the end of the session than later, after the incorrect result has been uploaded to Pianola.

We have two new trophies this season although the calendar is full so it doesn't mean that we have any more competitions. We are using results obtained in other competitions & the trophies are a measure of the Masterpoints won through the season. If any more trophies are donated we'll have to think about playing an additional night.

Slow play hasn't been a problem this season. Limiting Thursday sessions to 24 boards may have helped in this respect. Still for whatever reason, from the directors to the players let me say well done & thankyou. Keep it up.

Finally the Sims have achieved their usual average of seven or eight tables which isn't great for this club. You will have seen from Paul's message on the Club website that members can & do achieve good results in these national or even international competitions.

For anyone interested in improving their Masterpoint Ranking then this is the route to go. Sims can be a rich seam for Masterpoints & they are awarded to the top third. So it's as easy as that!!

I'd like to end by thanking Paul the Omnipotent once again for all his assistance. For me he seems to be constantly available whenever there is a query and is an abundant source of information an all aspects of bridge.

It's good to have a guru.

Over the past year the club income remained very similar to last year, but the expenditure has increased. At the end of this year the closing balance was £10,197.31, if you include the balance in the congress account, the total money held by the club is £10,698.36. However, the club has made a reduced surplus of £190 compared with that of £864 made last year (it was £458 in 2016). Also, the very slight reduction in the table money of £33 would have been considerably more if it weren't for the Summer bridge table money which increased to £837. After taking off hall costs and their donation of £84 to Grenfell Tower, the Summer bridge made a surplus of £303.

There was an increase of £83 in what we pay to the SBU in membership fees and we spent £440 on master points (last year we didn't need to buy any master points) so, along with the SIMS fees we spent a total £1,615 on master points and fees. However, we shouldn't need to buy any more master points next season. The increase in sundries is made from the Grenfell donation of £84, a directors' course and 3 lots of flowers.

The Christmas Party – Was a success, we had to ask you for bit more to pay for a caterer, but an excellent 2 course meal with wine included was only £15 per person. This did not cover the full cost of the event, with the club subbing the party by £98.50. However, I did bulk buy enough serviettes to last a good few years!

Berwick Congress 2017 and 2018

The 2017 event was a big success and made £424.06 profit, we donated £450 to the Air Ambulance, leaving a balance of £501 to start off this year's Congress. The 2018 Congress should make about £450, but I don't have the final figures yet.

If anyone wants to suggest a local charity to support this year, please could they let a committee member know, before the Summer Committee meeting.

Now, we have an anomaly, in that the financial year end for the club is the 15th April, which is before the end of the season. Not only do we have another month of bridge but also it is before the Congress is held. After some discussion, the Committee decided it would be more sensible to move the Financial Year End and Mr Patterson, the accountant, has suggested we don't have a fixed date but that it should be a week after the Congress has been held.

At present the clubs finances are about breaking even, but we have a healthy balance in the bank of over £10,000.

The Summer Bridge has been good for the club, a big thank you to Janet and helpers for organising it. I hope you will support this years Summer Bridge and encourage more people to join the club.

I propose we leave things unchanged for now with the table money the same, at £2 per night. The club annual fee can also stay at £1, however the SBU Annual Sub is to be increased by £1 to £9. This puts next year's total annual sub to £10 per member, making life easier for me, though I do hope more of you will think about using BACS as a method of payment. With banks closing all around us, handling cash is becoming more difficult.

Jane Smithson
Hon. Treasurer

Dealing machine £3,300; Bridge mates £2,000; Computer. Average table money £76 per night 9.5 tables.

Bridge achievements by members outwith the club

The Border Pairs was won by George Martin and Brian Thomas, for the umpteenth time. Marguerite Robson & Ann Ross were fourth.

The Border Teams was won by Ros French & George Martin and Reg Drysdale & Jean Mole. Jo & Bill Rowley and Brian Griffiths & Louis Moore were fourth.

Ros French, Diana and Reg Drysdale, Jean Mole, Margaret Patterson, and Kate Mole all finished second in the Berwick Congress Swiss Teams.

George Martin and Jean Mole were third in the Thursday Mixed Simultaneous for the Bobby Allan Trophy, continuing the club's fine tradition of podium finishes in this event.

Paul Gipson won the SBU Winter Foursomes, the premier weekend event in the SBU calendar, for the second consecutive year and the inaugural EBU National Online Knockout. Paul is seeking to retain the East District Atholl Cup on Saturday 19 May.

Helen Gipson won the Jacqueline Bruce Smith Vase, the East District Women's Teams, and Paul retained the Bowman Trophy, the East District Men's Teams.

Diana Drysdale was second in the East District Swiss Pairs.

George Martin and Brian Thomas were thirteenth in the Celtic Simultaneous Pairs.

Sandy Moor and Brian Griffiths finished fifth in the East District Simultaneous Pairs. Ros French and Diana Drysdale were tenth.

Christine & Ian McCreath were second in the inaugural Borders Charity Simultaneous Pairs with Peter & Cathy Ross third.

Jane and John Smithson were fourth in the SBU Summer Bronze Congress and second in the SBU Autumn Bronze Congress Pairs.

Nigel Marlow & David King were third in the East District Bronze 3/4 Pairs.

Ex-member Malcolm Copley won the Swiss Pairs at the SBU Winter Congress.

Paul Gipson was the official scorer for the 2018 Lady Milne Trophy and also coached some of the Scottish pairs. Paul is also a Junior Selector and coach.

Many members have been promoted during this season: Penny Davidson (4 Star Master), Ann Ross (2 Star Master), Peter Calder and Louis Moore (Master), Marilyn Hodgson and John Smithson (District Master), Dorothy Moore, Margaret McMurchie, and Jane Davey (Local Master), and Susan Smith, Jenni and Peter Fisher, and Tony Reed-Jones (Club Master).