

## BERWICK BRIDGE CLUB—PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR AGM ON 28<sup>TH</sup> May 2019

It's my pleasant duty to present my report on the Club's activities for season 2018/19.

The season was an excellent one. We had 14 tables on occasions, and no less than 9 new members joined us during the season— Jill Connor, Graeme Bone, Sue and Eric Price, Brian and Lesley Wood, Ann Love and Julian Bales and ~~Grette Elliott~~. Andrew Plenderleith rejoined.  
*Sandi Duncan*

This is all very encouraging, and we bought a 15<sup>th</sup> Bridgemate during the season, to prepare for the possible need for 15 tables. We buck the national trend of diminishing membership.

Sadly, Rita McCreath, a founder member of the Club, and a true stalwart in every way died in March, so we finished the season with no less than 93 paid up members.

I'm sure Summer Bridge has helped with recruitment, and would like to thank Janet Beattie and Jean Mole for all their hard work in starting this off, firstly at Ayton and now here in this Hall. We are now starting the 5<sup>th</sup> season of this initiative, and many members have volunteered to come along on a Thursday evening, to free up Janet and Jean. Many thanks also to Paul Gipson for his monthly Bridge classes during the summer.

The move to a Howell movement for some competitions seems to have worked well, as the complaints are far fewer than was the case with the Arrowswitch movement.

During the season, the Club made a donation of £300 towards the cost of a defibrillator for this Hall. Let's hope we don't need it !!

The Annual Club Congress was a great success, and we must all thank John Smithson and Paul Gipson for their extremely hard work, both before and

during the Congress. Thanks also to Jane Smithson and her team for all their hard work.

The Congress was particularly successful for some of our members at the Bridge Table. Congratulations again to Brian and George for winning the pairs, and to Garneth, Sandy, Louis and Brian for winning the teams.

The Christmas Party seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended, and as the new kitchen will have been installed we can look forward to hot food being available at this year's party.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all committee members for all the work they have done during the season, especially Louis Moore, competition Secretary, Jane ||Smithson, treasurer and Trish Frew Frew, secretary.

~~Lastly~~, I'd like to mention a few significant achievements by members further afield.

Jean Mole and Ros French won the Border Pairs.

Ian McCreath, myself, Louis Moore and Brian Griffiths won the Border Teams.

Jean Mole and George Martin were 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 344 pairs in the Ecats WBF Charity Pairs.

Nicola Corbyn and Tony Houghton won the East District Bronze Pairs.

And Jean Mole and Terry Harris were 2<sup>nd</sup> in Scotland in the Charity Challenge for the RNLI.

These are just a few of members' successes ~~elsewhere~~.

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Let's hope next season will be just as successful, if not more so.

Thank you all very much indeed for your support during the season.

\* Lastly I am pleased to see 17 club members have been promoted in rank this season mostly through masterpoints won through the club. If you want to get promotion quicker you might consider playing in League Teams, Div or District Events.

## Berwick Bridge Club – Financial Report 2018 -2019

The Club has had a good year, despite some sad losses, we have increased our membership numbers. We now have 93 Full Members and this is reflected in the Club's finances. The accounts have also been affected by having completed the merger of the Congress Bank Account with the Club Bank Account, the Congress Bank Account has now been closed. But you will notice that our overall balance has gained £2,000. However, £500 of this has come from the Congress float of £500 that has been transferred into the Club account. So, our true gain in the last year is about £1,500. But I do feel that we can afford some new cards and bidding boxes!

You will have noticed a consistently larger number of tables each night. This is reflected in the increase in Table Money by £1,000, however it is shown as an increase of over £1,600. This is because the accountants rolled the Christmas party income of £630 into the Table Money instead of the Sundries Income that it was entered under. There has also been a small increase in the Annual Subs, though we did have to buy an extra Bridgemate to cope with the numbers. The Christmas party only needed £17 support from the Club. However, the figures under Party and Refreshments have doubled, this is because the money for the Christmas Party was put through the Accounts and recorded properly, instead of being kept separate. The increase in Prizes & Engraving is because the financial year has moved to almost the end of the season and after the Congress and this year includes 2 years' prizegivings.

### **Sundries**

The £621 **Sundries Expenditure** is mainly made up from charity donations to two SIMS charity matches and £300 for a defibrillator. This is on the Manse wall, just at the bottom of the path, coming up to the hall. You may have noticed that it has a keypad to open it. If there is an emergency, you get the number for the keypad to open the box, by dialling 999 for an ambulance. So, in an emergency, first shout for help to get some assistance. Then the helper can phone for an ambulance and at the same time they get the keypad number for the defibrillator which they collect and bring back to you. Meanwhile you have been busy resuscitating the patient.

### **Congresses.**

I was hoping that this year's Congress figures would be included in the Club Accounts and presented on one sheet of paper, as this is how they were recorded. There has been some muddling of my figures, there was never a Sundries heading in the Congress accounts and different expenses have been muddled up under various headings, for example the pens we give out have been put under Sundries in 2018 and under Stationary in 2019. I hope that next year the accounts will be reported on in one account.

The profit from last year's 2018 Congress of £500, was given to the Grove Special Needs School.

This year's Congress was as usual a great success, however the profit will be reduced by £109 because this year we had to pay for the soup and there could be a further reduction of £100 for an unfortunate lastminute refund, giving a final profit of about either £300 or £400. If anyone has a suggestion for a suitable charity please let a committee member know, before our Summer meeting.

### **Annual Subscriptions.**

Next season sees the last of the SBU annual increases of £1, bringing the SBU element of the annual sub. to £10 per player, with the addition of £1 for the Berwick Club, making a total of £11 per person next year. However, the Club will no longer have to pay the SBU an annual Club fee of £17! It would be most helpful if as many people as possible could pay their subs by BACS, especially as we will be on holiday at the beginning of next season!

I propose that we keep the table money at the same rate of £2 per person.

I would like to give you a year's notice of my retirement as Treasurer, so next season will be my last. 7 years is enough and there are other members in the Club much better qualified than me. One of them is Tony Reed Jones, who has kindly offered to take over. So, I would like to propose that Tony should be elected as Treasurer for 2020 onwards.

Jane Smithson (Honorary Treasurer)

**Berwick Bridge Club AGM 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019** *Competition Secretary.*

We don't confer on what we will say at this meeting so usually by the time my turn comes I've crossed most of my remarks out which will I'm sure be a relief to many of you.

1. This club is thriving while many others languish.

We are friendly & welcoming I hope to new players & although we are non exclusive, still offer a reasonable standard of bridge.

We had one session of 14 full tables &, realizing that there was a potential for more we acquired an extra Bridgemate.

We can now accommodate up to 15 full tables. It will be organised chaos but it will be organized. Sixteen tables would be an alfresco session on the Morris Dancer stage outside & the windows open. Marilyn & Brian have put some thought into how the tables should be arranged & I think they are slightly disappointed that they have not been required. Nevertheless we are ready.

Having done all this we now find that our scoring software, Scorebridge, has been taken over by someone who has devised an APP so that scoring can be carried out on an 8" tablet or even a smartphone. The set up looks much more attractive than Bridgemate . It's in colour, has more information & is more intuitive to use. It seems obvious where the future lies. There is though, no hint at the present time that Bridgemates will be nudged off the table & as there is nothing wrong with our system at present, I don't think we need worry for some time, if ever!

2. The competitions this year have been directed very well & I think you'll agree that we JUNIOR directors are gaining in confidence.

I would like in particular to thank Terry who has for the past two seasons directed the McDonald Trophy at my request when one of the previous directors found the load too onerous to bare along with their other commitments.

Terry does all the dealing for the club without any help or indeed any understudy so I would appeal to anyone who feels that they would or could help out as a director to let me know. You would not be thrown in at the deep end as there is always someone here who can advise in the event of any problem & many who can advise even when there isn't.

Indeed there may be dozens of people willing to advise.

I could then relieve Terry of one of his duties.

Also worthy of thanks or even praise, is Paul who seem to spend his life in front of a screen as whenever I ask him for advice via email the reply comes back in seconds. The replies can be relied upon as gospel ( well his name is Paul so what else?) Even if they're incorrect nobody gainsays his advice so problem solved.

Thanks for all your help and especially for your availability.

3. This year, as a result of the general dislike of arrow switching we have been trialing some Howell movements. I don't think that I've heard any complaints , so we'll be continuing with them. Thanks to Sandy & Brian for their pioneering of this. I should just like to clarify why when N/S only move on the last or next to last round whilst remaining at the same table this is NOT an arrow switch.

The technology (& like it or not the technology is driving Bridge events everywhere) treats the changes in the final round/s in the same way as a hesitation movement i.e. North moves to East ,South to West while East moves to North & West moves to South. ( In an arrow switch East becomes North but North becomes West)

This, of course, makes no difference to the score but it does to any analysis that you may wish to carry out later on Pianola.

It is also incumbent upon you all to ensure that you play each table in the correct positions. The Bridgemates tell you, both at the end of the previous round and when you move to the next table as does the Table card what seat you should be playing. You also have a reminder button on the Bridgemate since we updated them. If you press the Names button at any time it shows who should be where.

Playing the hands incorrectly did occur this season & it kind of skewed the result by about 14 places when I reversed the positions. Of course I could only use the contracts & results actually achieved so it doesn't mean that that would have been the actual outcome. Vigilance is the key.

4. I'm delighted with the response to Simultaneous events this year. While I have catered for eight tables – as regards leaflets – we have historically been lucky to get seven, but this year it's been as many as ten.

As when Bobby Allen chose to move dates without consulting us & we took part in an alternative Charity event in aid of Yemeni refugees.

We are on Bobby's trail though & plan to meet up next year.

This club does well in Sims - maybe not winning outright but we usually have someone in the frame & several in the 10%.

Paul shows our best performers on the web page

There were no leaflets available for the Yemen competition and so Terry did printouts in the usual way. I know that I & many of you prefer our usual printouts to the often esoteric remarks printed in the leaflets so for the future we are not requesting leaflets & we will have our usual printouts instead. The hands can also be uploaded onto the Club website. This will save the club 50p /player for as long as the club continues to subsidize these events.

If anyone would still like the commentary it is available to download it from the ecats web page.

I did not award Masterpoints for the Lindsay Individual although the committee thought that it could be done on the raw results as with other competitions. It would have to be done by Paul – he's the only one who knows how- whereas, for all the other competitions Mps are automatically added by Pianola where they are tallied up for the George Martin & Betty Kelly awards. It is my opinion that, as we are paying for the use of this technology, we are just as well using it.

Mistakes only happen when humans are involved.

'Computer error' doesn't really exist. It's a myth

## **Bridge achievements by members outwith the club during 2018-19**

The Border Pairs run by the BABC was won by Jean Mole and Ros French, with Tony Oates and Peter Calder the runners-up. On the same day Diana and Reg Drysdale were third in the East District Swiss Pairs, the second consecutive year that Diana has been on that podium.

The Border Teams was won by Christine and Ian McCreath, Brian Griffiths, and Louis Moore.

The Congress Pairs was won by Brian Thomas and George Martin. The Congress Teams was won by Sandy Moor, Garneth Ellis, Brian Griffiths, and Louis Moore.

Ros French and Terry Harris were fourth in the East District Simultaneous Pairs, with Marilyn Hodgson and Louis Moore in fifth.

Diana Drysdale who won the Dunbar Congress Pairs. Reg Drysdale, Jean Mole, and Diana Drysdale combined to win the Dunbar Congress Teams.

Diana Drysdale and Ros French were third in the Kelso Congress Pairs, one place ahead of Jean Mole and Reg Drysdale with Marguerite Robson and Marion Mead sixth. Diana, Ros, Jean, and Reg then teamed up to take first place in the Kelso Congress Swiss Teams.

Christine and Ian McCreath finished 17th nationally in the SBU Thea Teale Bronze Pairs.

Nicola Corbyn was the top Club Master in the SB News Improvers' Bidding Challenge for July.

Paul Gipson lost in the final of the SBU Winter Foursomes, having won the event for the previous two years.

Jean Mole and George Martin came second (of 344) in the ECatsBridge/WBF Charity Pairs.

Nicola Corbyn and Tony Houghton won the East District Bronze Pairs.

Ian and Christine McCreath were third in the Consolation Teams Final at the Isle of Mull Congress.

Jean Mole and Terry Harris were placed second in Scotland in the Charity Challenge Pairs for the RNLI.

Sandy Duncan won the Cowan Cup, the East District Pairs Championship and the Bowman Trophy, the East District Men's Teams Championship.

Many members have been promoted during the season:

- Christine McCreath - 5 Star Master
- Margaret Patterson - 4 Star Master
- Sandy Moor - 1 Star Master
- Tony Houghton - Master

- Ian McCreath - Master
- Perry Vassie - District Master
- Nigel Marlow - District Master
- Bill Rowley - Local Master
- Anne Horne - Local Master
- Kelvin Butler - Local Master
- Nicola Corbyn - Local Master
- Jill Connor - Local Master
- Graham Bone - Club Master
- Len Hutton - Club Master
- Chris Orchard - Club Master
- Ann Love - Club Master
- Julian Bales - Club Master