

**Minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held in the Mayfield Centre, Stirling on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

<b>Council</b>	Eddie McGeough	President	Present
		President Elect	Present
<b>District Chairmen</b>			
	D Wiseman	Chairman of Ayrshire District	Present
	D French	Chairman of Central District	Present
	A Perkins	Chairman of East District	Present
	T Wickens	Chairman of Highland District	Present
	A Coles	Chairman of North District	Absent
	D Shamash	Chairman of South District	Absent
	P Hodgson	Chairman of West District	Present
		Secretary	Present
	G Plant	Treasurer	Present

In attendance: A Bruce, B Campbell, L Findlay, J Forsyth, D Liggat, E McGowan, C Duddell, I Hunter, I Hunter, M McGinley, T Irwin (Snr) T Irwin (Jnr), C Gurney, T Kerr, A Wickens, W Whyte

**1. Notice of Meeting**

The President read out the Notice of Meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from members: A Coles, A Knox, M Rennie, D Shamash, H Smith, S Wiseman, J Cunningham, J Matheson, P Mathieson

**3. Minutes of 83rd Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising**

Adoption of the Minute of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was proposed by D Liggat, seconded by J Forsyth and passed *nem. con.*

**4. President's Report**

The President, Eddie McGeough welcomed those present and read his report. The report is detailed in full at the end of the Minute. He particularly wished to thank members of Council, past and present, for their support during his Presidency.

**5. Treasurer's Report – G Plant**

The accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 show a surplus of for the year of £49,000

The Treasurer told the meeting that this was due to a robust budgeting strategy.

D Liggat asked how current year compares to budget. G Plant explained that subscriptions / tournament income high till May /June. Expenditure was near to end of financial year.

Competitions income has gone down due to 2018 refunds and a decrease in numbers.

W Whyte asked if the Council would do anything with the money. At present no decisions have been made.

J Forsyth asked about VAT. G Plant is looking into VAT situation.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by T Wickens, seconded by I Hunter and passed *nem. con.*

## 6. Annual Subscriptions

Council agreed that the annual subscriptions for Individual Membership for 2019/20 should be as follows:

Ordinary member subscription (via an affiliated club) = £10

The annual subscription had been considered for 2020/2021 previously and the proposal was for no change.

The proposal was passed *nem.con.*

## 7. Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented by the President.

## 8. Any Other Competent Business

### 2020 National Congress

Dave Duddell asked if there was plans in place for the 2020 National Congress. Eddie McGeough replied that Alison Bruce was currently researching venues as it was felt that the Peebles Hydro standards were not as high as previously. It was agreed that the National Congress needs a 'special' venue.

### Autumn Pairs

David Liggat suggested that the SBU target clubs that own their premises and try to get them to run heats for the Autumn Pairs. As an incentive to promote this clubs could be offered a rebate on numbers ie. Over 8 tables. This would be discussed in more detail

## 9. Election of Office Bearers – 2017/18

- |              |            |  |
|--------------|------------|--|
| 1. President | E McGeough | Proposed by SBU Council                            |
| 2. Secretary | C Dempsie  | Proposed by E McGowan and Seconded by Anne Perkins |
| 3. Treasurer | G Plant    | Proposed by SBU Council                            |

## 10. Election of Auditor

MacKenzie Kerr , Chartered Accountants Proposed by W Whyte and Seconded by E McGowan

11. Noting the seven Vice-Presidents, being the Chairmen of the seven Districts

**These nominations were accepted by the meeting *nem.con.***

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

## Item 7 - Presentation of Trophies

### APPENDIX C: Presentation of Trophies

<b>Team Events</b>	
Scottish Cup – Daily Record Trophy	I.Sime, J. Murdoch, P. Barton, B.Spears
Scottish Cup Plate – W M Clow Trophy	D.Shenkin, A.Gordon, D.Diamond, M.Diamond
Gold Cup Plate – Marion Hill Trophy	J. McMenemy, P. Maiolani, F. Marshall, P. Home
Edward Rayne Trophy	D. Walker, A. Goodman, B. Short, L. Steel
National Swiss Teams – Edwin Berry Bowl	M. Cuthbertson, F. McQuaker, E. McGowan, D. Piper
Men’s Teams – Benny Dexter Trophy	R. Clow, J. Hay, T. McKay, D. Peden
Women’s Teams – Glasgow Bulletin Trophy	E. McGowan, F. McQuaker, S. MacDonald, M. Grant
Women’s Teams – Beatrice Craig Trophy	A. Anderson, E. Mitchell, S. Williams, W. Collier
National Mixed Teams – Helen Walton Trophy	E.McGowan, D.Liggat, F.McQuaker, I.Sime
Winter Fours – BBL Cup	B. Senior, S.Penfold, N. Senior, R.Trendafilov
Winter Swiss Teams – Peploe Trophy	R. Valentine, L. O'Brien, S. Pinkerton, G. Freimanis
Bronze Teams -Thea Teale	M. Rozman, A. Chow, K. Nguyen, T. Janowski
Scottish Mixed Schools – Abbott Salver	
Schools Teams Championships – Scotsman Cup	Glasgow HS
Schools Minibridge Championship	Dundee Grange Primary
National League – Division 1- Matheson Trophy	A. Adamson, D.Sanders, I.Gordon, D.Kane
National League – Division 2 – Alexander Trophy	E. McGowan, F. McQuaker, S. Adamson, A. Milne, A. Symons, A. Chow
<b>Individual Events</b>	
Grandmaster Invitational – A L Benjamin Trophy	N. Guthrie
Scottish, National, Life & Grandmaster – J Harrison Trophy	M. Forest, J. Duxbury (joint)
Master & Senior Master – Louis Shenkin Trophy	T. Janowski
District Master – A Fairlie Trophy	R. MacPherson
<b>Pairs Events</b>	
National Pairs - Scotsman Trophy	C. Gurney, T. Kerr
Men’s Pairs – Buchanan Cup	P. Barton, A. Dickinson
Women’s Pairs – Cyril Breene Cup	P. Murphy, V. Gibson
Inter-District Pairs – Spence Cup	S.Martin, M.Brown
National Mixed Pairs – Ruby Martin Trophy	S.Punch, S.Peterkin
Scottish Swiss Pairs – T N Culbertson Trophy	Not yet played
Magazine Subscriber Pairs – C B Farquharson Trophy	P.Maiolani, I.MacIntyre
SBU Simultaneous Pairs – Lord Thomson Trophy	A. Russell, J. Boulton
Simultaneous Mixed Pairs – Bobby Allan Trophy	A. Rabbitts, M. Hodder
Stirling Pairs	I. Sime, J. Murdoch
Senior National Pairs – Diamond Trophy	J.McMenemy, R.Moore
Junior National Pairs –Robert Frischmann Trophy	L. O'Brien, D. Mitchell
Easter Pairs	A. Rabbitts, M. Hodder
Autumn Pairs	H. McCash, J. Di Mambro
Grandmaster Pairs – Arthur Trophy	C. Duddell, D. Duddell
Life & Senior Life Master Pairs – C D Bowman Trophy	A. Knox, E. McGeough
Scottish & National Master Pairs-Alan Fairlie Trophy	F. Noorbakhsh, N. Taylor
Master & Senior Master Pairs – G D Jesner Trophy	M.Tyre, A.Tyre
District Master Pairs – Johnston Trophy	B.Somerville, I. Somerville
Club & Local Master Pairs – Hugh Kennedy Trophy	T and A. Irwin
Hugh Kelsey Trophy	A. Ford, M. Bernard
Thea Teale National Bronze Pairs	T. Bagnall, M. Rozman
<b>President’s Prize</b>	G and Mrs S. Reid

## President's Report

AGM Speech 28th May 2019

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the 85th Annual General Meeting of the SBU.

### SCHOOLS

Those of you who have just come in, may have missed the presentation to the winners of the Schools' Mini-Bridge Competition. It was great of their school, teachers, parents, but especially the winners to come all the way from Dundee to receive the award. (Make a note to endeavour to attend mini-bridge next year).

### PAST MEMBERS

Sadly I attended the funerals of Past President, Jim Wilcox. Les Wilson, spouse of Pat Wilson, past president, and

Gerald Haase, International Player.

I would have liked to, but was unable to attend that of former president Marion Hill, particularly as I was in John Dick's team as winners of the Marion Hill Trophy at the time of her passing away.

Ayrshire best player, Sam Malkani passed away on the 23rd May. He & Kate were 3rd at the Scottish Swiss pairs in Ayr a few days earlier. His funeral is on the 4th June.

### INTERNATIONAL

The highlight of the year has, without doubt, been the success of our Ladies Team in finishing in the Top 8 in the Europeans in Ostend last June. They thus have qualified for the World Finals in Wuhan, China in September 2019.

Congratulations to Anne Symons, Helen Kane, Fiona McQuaker, Liz McGowan, Paula Leslie, and Sam Punch. Liz is just coming to the end of her 'road tour' of fund raising. A huge undertaking by Liz. Let's hope her efforts achieve the success they deserve later in the year. Well done, Liz. And thanks to all the others who have helped in fund-raising. (Jill Arthur tablet, ...)

The rest of our international performances were not so good.

I visited Mold, Wales, for the 1st weekend of the Camrose, and, despite NPC Jim Hay's encouragement, and the camaraderie of the team, the results just weren't forthcoming.

Again, a great attitude & enthusiasm, in Belfast; the Juniors did everything they could to try and overcome the loss they had to England in the 2nd stanza, but just failed to catch a very professional English squad. Similarly for the Peggy Bayer team, outgunned by a more experienced England team. The good news is that all the players in Belfast are eligible and want to have another crack at Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer next season. Our thanks to Paul Gipson and co., for preparing the squads, and to NPCs Anne & Andrew Symons. Anne & Andrew are stepping down after the Europeans, and are excitedly looking forward to spending time with their 1st grandchild. Junior Development Co-ordinator required.

I didn't manage to get to Dublin where the Ladies' team had to relinquish the Lady Milne trophy won in Edinburgh last year.

At the Senior Camrose, in Edinburgh. I acted as Christine Walker's 2nd TD where we were the host nation. Thanks to Steward Duguid for sponsoring the event, and putting in an Ayrshire team, called SBU They won their last match.

### SERVICES

sbu.org.uk moved to new host – no update yet. Difficulties with some mail being rejected by some Internet Providers. Event entry easier. Directors MUST put results on SBU site and not just their club site.

Mempad.co.uk despite no resolution to lack of development / support person, continue to run smoothly to the benefit of the membership

SB News - Liz McGowan is still trying hard to reduce her workload but has continued on the temporary editorship of the magazine and is doing a great job. Still would appreciate someone else taking on the task. (Note that this last part copied from last year's report!)

### TOURNAMENTS

Directors -This year in an effort to improve our director's standards, we had a training weekend at the Melville, well attended, and some of the attendees have already directed or shadowed at National Events. We need to put more into the scoring side. The next TD Training being run by Duncan Cursiter is 8 -Sep  
Remuneration report being prepared.

Christine Walker, our chief TD responded to an EBL request to NBOs to host the EBL's TD Training in Jan/Feb 2020. Unfortunately the Edinburgh venues she looked at were above the EBL budget.

## National League

Again very successful, 3 divisions. Some grumbles about the number of teams in the 3rd division. And since then we've agreed that there will be at least 8 teams in a 3rd division.

## Winter4s.

28 Teams, and very favourable comments. We're going to try and close at 32 teams in 2020, so get your entry in early.

## Women's Pairs & Teams.

The 2019 venue in Banchory, hosted by North District was a great success, with many complimentary remarks. Thank you to all the volunteers who made it a success, even with the glitch in the teams scoring.

Without going through all the other events in detail, the Easter Sims were a success, the extended opportunities to play making up for the dropping of Easter Pairs.

Our thanks to all those who help to run the extensive calendar of events that the SBU organises. I've endeavoured to play in as many events, National, District, and local as I could; from Berwick to Strathpeffer; Mull to Montrose. From National League to Balloted Pairs at Troon. From winning the Bowman with Angela Knox to being bottom at Western District Teams. And with all these 'Bridge Miles', I even got a free upgrade to the Benjamin!

It always amazes me the quality of organisers throughout the country, and for the warm reception I've received wherever I've gone. I must apologise to those who have put up and partnered me on my travels. I'll try and reduce the number of times I use the phrase "I should have" in future.

Oh, did I forget to tell you that, after winning the Marion Hill Trophy, I was in John Dick's team that was the 1st team from Scotland to win the Silver Plate in Cardiff?

## CONGRESSES

### Peebles

Numbers declined to such an extent that the Hydro charged us for unused rooms in December 2018. They had elected not to do so for October 2018, thus October made a slight profit; however the December loss resulted us coming to the decision to cancel the contract.

Julie & Hasan Choudhury then resigned as conveners, and gave notice that they would step down after the overseas congress in May.

Martin Stephens and Liz McGowan persuaded the SBU to attempt a 'Final Peebles', in December 2018, and underwrite any losses. In Martin's words 'It's a Disaster' – 95 rooms and 58 tables – a sell out by the middle of May! We thank them and look forward to an event to remember in due course. Sorry, but if you were thinking of going, you're too late.

### Overseas

Due to poor flight schedules, disappointingly, the venue was switched from Porec to La Manga. Reduced to 18 tables in the teams, including a strong team of from Finland. A Scottish team won the Swiss Teams. We welcomed Andrew Barnes to the team as a scorer, but I'm not comfortable with the need for an independent scorer and still needing 2 Directors.

Just before the congress Alison Bruce was recommended as a new Congress convener. Alison paid her own way to La Manga to find out what was involved. I then contacted the Council members to ask for their endorsement as convener, which they did. A number of meetings were held during the La Manga Congress with the current team, and Bridge Overseas. We have some ideas about running home congresses which will be explored.

Next year: Majorca. Our new congress convener will be trying to increase the numbers. Future overseas venues and dates fluid.

## EDUCATION

Lack of a convener is a serious concern.

Tim and Ann Wickens have been holding it together, but we need someone to take over.

The film "Double Dummy" was shown and well attended in June. Subsequently a Stirling University Bridge Club was set up and Douglas Piper, assisted by Liz, gave a fast-track series of lessons in the Library, not just for students, but for the local community. I attended a few times and was last there for the kick-off of Sam Punch's 'Keep Bridge Alive' campaign which aims to fund 2 Research Assistants for 'Sociology of Bridge'.

Thanks to Mike Ash for continuing to represent the SBU at BGB, and to Anna Gudge for scoring our SIMs.

## COUNCIL

I sadly had to accept the resignation from the secretary's position of Avril Sloane, due to health reasons. Loraine sent flowers to Avril on behalf of the Council. We thank Avril for all her work; we have missed her.

I'd like to extend my great thanks to all the Council members, viz.:

George Plant, Treasurer

- we may not like some of the things he tells us, but we have to admire the way he keeps things tightly under control – can you not loosen your belt a little George? Of course ably assisted by Loraine Findlay, who has more energy than a case of Red Bull.

Anne Coles, new to the Council and who has gone through a steep learning curve as Tournament Convener.

Tim & Ann Wickens who've kept Education rolling - come on, they need a break.

Anne Perkins International. I had my suspicions and found out that her name is a plural. I can now reveal that there's more than 1 Anne. I knew she couldn't possibly be dealing all those boards and running events by herself!

Mr Mempad, Bill Whyte, and his team, Alison Carmichael and Gordon Milne.

Past Presidents Ian Hunter, for his valuable advice, and Russell Frame for helping to form an L&E Panel with David Wiseman.

Delegates in District order:

Ayrshire - David Wiseman;

Central - Joan Forsyth;

East -Liz McGowan – who also fits in L&E with tasks previously mention;

Highland - Tim Wickens;

North - Anne Coles;

South - Donald Shamash; &

West - Peter Hodgson, who also steers Master Point committee, and to whom I had the pleasure of handing his Grandmaster Cuff-links at the meeting in April.

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But I really can't stress enough to our members how much work the Council does on their behalf.

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EX-SBU

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President