

Minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting held in the Mayfield Centre, Stirling on Tuesday, 30th May 2017

Council	Ian Hunter	President	Present
	Russell Frame	Immediate Past President	Present
District Chairmen			
	J Tudor	Chairman of Ayrshire District	Present
	S Forbes	Chairman of Central District	Absent
	E M ^c Gowan	Chairman of East District	Present
	T Wickens	Chairman of Highland District	Present
	L Findlay	Chairman of North District	Present
	M Thomson	Chairman of South District	Absent
	P Hodgson	Chairman of West District	Present
	A Sloane	Secretary	Present
	G Plant	Treasurer	Present

In attendance: A Wickens, M Rennie, S Bailey, G Bailey, M McGinley, H Smith, M Curran, B Campbell, E McGeough, W Whyte, A McLeod, A Tudor, N McJannet, J Bryson, T Lindsay, F Greenwood, A Perkins, A Symons, T Matheson, J Matheson, F Abbott, P Lennon

1. Notice of Meeting

The Secretary read out the Notice of Meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from members J and J Glen, A Coles, B McPaul, S Duncan, D Liggat, H and J Choudhury, M Thomson, R Gallagher, F Marshall, R McClymont, J Cunningham, J Arthur, C Ferguson, B McKinnon, M Jackson, R Bennet

3. Minutes of 82nd Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising

Adoption of the Minute of the 82nd Annual General Meeting was proposed by WL Whyte, seconded by H Smith and passed *nem. con.*

4. President's Report

The President, Ian Hunter welcomed those present and read his report. The report is detailed in full at the end of the Minute. He particularly wished to thank Mrs C Ferguson for her contribution whilst serving on the Council and to Past-President, R Frame and Finance Convener, F Greenwood for their work during the year.

He also thanked Mr B McKinnon for his work as magazine editor.

5. Treasurer's Report – G Plant

The accounts to 31st August 2016 show a surplus of for the year of £29,064.



The Treasurer reminded the meeting that the previous year's accounts were for a period of 17 months to 31 August 2015. Accordingly, it is not possible to show accurate comparative figures.

The Treasurer told the meeting that surplus included a legacy of £20,000 which had been received in the year. The remainder of the surplus was attributed to the following:

- The choice of Budapest as a venue for the Europeans was cheaper than previous venues
- There was an unexpected payment from the BGB for the past two years participation in the Gold Cup
- The Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer hosting came in below budget. This was because a variety of people had made donations and fundraised for the event.

Some comments were raised regarding the cost of the SBU Magazine. The Treasurer explained that that Council are actively looking for a more cost effect way of delivering the magazine. An electronic version has been suggested. However, some large clubs currently take out subscriptions which help to defray the costs.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by A Symons, seconded by M Rennie and passed *nem. con.*

6. Annual Subscriptions

Council proposed that the annual subscriptions for Individual Membership for 2018/19 should be £9 effective from 1st September 2018. Other subscription rates remain unchanged.

There followed a short discussion on the cost of Direct Membership which remains at £20 and which includes the circulation of the magazine. It was noted that there are around 40 Direct Members.

Following the discussion, the proposal was passed *nem.con.*

7. Changes to the Constitution proposed by Council

The President explained the rationale behind the proposed changes.

After a number of questions and comments from the floor aimed at clarifying matters the Motion was passed by a majority of those present with one vote against and one abstention.

8. Presentation of Trophies

Trophies were presented by the President.

9. Any Other Competent Business

National League

Ann Wickens noted that the rules of the NL (clause 37) appear to suggest that there would only be 2 divisions. Anne Perkins clarified point by confirming that this would only happen if there were less than 22 entries.

Awarding of Red Points

The President noted the comments which have been received regarding the withdrawal of the awarding of Red Points for some competitions. He told the meeting that this matter has been referred to the Match Point Committee for further consideration.

Proposals from Highland Division

A Wickens acknowledged that these proposals had been circulated out of time but asked that the points be noted. She raised the issue of representation on the Tournament Committee and suggested that one member from each district should sit on this committee. F Greenwood agreed with this suggestion.



The President noted that the Council are actively looking for a new Tournament Convener and hoped that this position will be filled in the near future.

Report on Junior Activity

The President thanked A Symons for her comprehensive report which was circulated at the meeting and which is detailed in full at the end of the minutes

Individual Competitions

P Lennon raised the issue of player representation in these competitions and noted that even although these are National competitions the majority of entrants are from the East District, presumably because the competitions are held in the East.

There followed a short discussion during which the President suggested that this matter could be discussed at the Tournament Committee.

10. Election of Office Bearers – 2017/18

1. President	I Hunter	Proposed by SBU Council
2. President – Designate	E McGeough	Proposed by SBU Council
3. Secretary	A Sloane	Proposed by SBU Council
4. Treasurer	G Plant	Proposed by SBU Council

11. Election of Auditor

MacKenzie Kerr , Chartered Accountants Proposed by SBU Council

12. 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 7.55pm



Item 8 - Presentation of Trophies

Team Events	
Scottish Cup – Daily Record Trophy	Brian Short Dave Walker John Matheson Les Steel
Scottish Cup Plate – W M Clow Trophy	Cathy Ferguson Joan Lees Peter Hodgson Willie Nelson
Gold Cup Plate – Marion Hill Trophy	Not played
Edward Rayne Trophy	Harry Smith Roy Bennett Mike McGinley Alex Adamson
National Swiss Teams – Edwin Berry Bowl	Iain Sime John Matheson John Murdoch Patrick Home
Men's Teams – Benny Dexter Trophy	Brian Short Alan Goodman John Murdoch Iain Sime
Women's Teams – Glasgow Bulletin Trophy	Marion Curran Margaret McCabe Pat Barton Catherine Longley
Women's Teams – Beatrice Craig Trophy	Anne Symons Helen Kane Samantha Punch Abigail Wilson
National Mixed Teams – Helen Walton Trophy	David Liggat Liz McGowan Sam Punch Steven Peterkin
Winter Fours – BBL Cup	Mike Ash Chris Chambers Paul Gipson Alex Gipson
Winter Swiss Teams – Peploe Trophy	Duncan Rodger Ian Brookes Suresh Tyagi Bill Durning
Bronze Teams	Rob Hickling Henry Webb Ian Pettit Joe Duxbury
Schools Teams Championships – Scotsman Cup	
Schools Minibridge Championship	Strathdevon Reds
National League – Division 1- Matheson Trophy	Alex Adamson Mike McGinley Jun Nakamaru-Pinder Paul Barton Mike Ash Arend Bayer
National League – Division 2	Charles Outred Vi Outred David Gerrard Derek Diamond



Individual Events	
Grandmaster Invitational – A L Benjamin Trophy	George Plant
Scottish, National, Life & Grandmaster – J Harrison Trophy	Steven Bailey
Master & Senior Master – Louis Shenkin Trophy	Gillian Godfrey
District Master – A Fairlie Trophy	David Hamilton
Pairs Events	
National Pairs	John Bryson Jim Tudor
Men's Pairs – Buchanan Cup	Iain Sime John Matheson
Women's Pairs – Cyril Breene Cup	Val Gibson Pearl Murphy
Inter-District Pairs – Spence Cup	Iain Taylor Andrew Symons
National Mixed Pairs – Ruby Martin Trophy	George Plant Veronica Guy
Scottish Swiss Pairs – T N Culbertson Trophy	Jim Forsyth Nigel Guthrie
Magazine Subscriber Pairs – C B Farquharson Trophy	Ian Patrick Alastair Ross
SBU Simultaneous Pairs – Lord Thomson Trophy	D Shenkin M Diamond
Simultaneous Mixed Pairs – Bobby Allan Trophy	Charlie Anderson June Kerr
Stirling Pairs	Jim Hay Sandy Duncan
Senior National Pairs – Diamond Trophy	Ian Andrew Dave Cotton
Junior National Pairs – Robert Frischmann Trophy	Gints Freimanis Liam O'Brien
Easter Pairs	Stuart McCreadie Pat Smith
Autumn Pairs	Helen McKillop Liz Duncan
Grandmaster Pairs – Arthur Trophy	Paul Maiolani Jim McMenemy
Life & Senior Life Master Pairs – C D Bowman Trophy	Gavin Christie Ron Moodie
Scottish & National Master Pairs – Alan Fairlie Trophy	Robert Dickson Nicol Taylor
Master & Senior Master Pairs – G D Jesner Trophy	Noel Goldthorpe Margaret Tuley
District Master Pairs – Johnston Trophy	David Chambers Wendy Chambers
Club & Local Master Pairs – Hugh Kennedy Trophy	Norman Stewart Mary Stewart
Hugh Kelsey Trophy	Neil Lovie Tricia Milne

Thea Teale National Bronze Pairs	Jean Parker Mary Thomson
President's Prize	George Plant



AGM 2017

President's Report

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the 83rd Annual General Meeting of the SBU.

Bill Clow one of our past presidents and a strong supporter of our competitions died in March and he will be sorely missed.

This is the SBU's first year with a reduced committee and we have been able to get through all items on our agendas at all our meetings, must be an improvement.

In my first year as President, in connection with the European Bridge League, I have had the pleasure of visiting Rome for three days of meetings. Then Budapest though my trip there was twofold, primarily to support our teams competing in the European Championships unfortunately without success, the other reason was to attend two meetings with the EBL plus an excellent dinner funded by the EBL with unlimited wine. The sacrifices you have to make for bridge!

I also attended our Camrose teams matches in Coventry and Edinburgh but again regrettably no trophies better luck next year.

Our ladies team in the World Bridge Championship reached the play off and in the semi final lost narrowly to a very strong French team. Our other success was the gold medal won by Jun Makamaru-Pinder and Olivia Bailey in the European Youth Mixed pairs championship.

This year in an effort to improve our players standards, we had Brian Senior give a training session in Edinburgh which was well attended by a number of our internationalists and up and coming players.

For the juniors, we held a training event in Stirling run by Anne Symons, which was enjoyed by the attendees though less than we had been expecting

There have been a number of changes in our personnel over the year with the resignations of our secretary Cathy Ferguson, our magazine editor Bob McKinnon and from our AGM Fiona Greenwood who have contributed a considerable amount to our organisation and I thank them all for their past services.

We welcome our new secretary Avril Sloane and our new congress convener Julie Choudhury assisted by her husband Hasan.

It should also be noted that our previous congress convener Joan Lees, though she had resigned, continued to assist us over the year.

We are also pleased to announce the return of Ann Wickens to the education committee though she did so much after she resigned we felt she never really left us.

Finally, Liz McGowan trying hard to reduce her workload has taken on the temporary editorship of the magazine and is doing a great job.

We welcome Eddie McGeough to the position of President Elect.

Thanks are due to our TDs who are having a few problems in placing results on the web and provided there is a working Wi-Fi this will be improved.

Currently investigations are under way to make improvements to our web site as currently it is not always easy to find what you are seeking. This will require funding but currently no figures are available.

In a similar vein, we are still developing Mepad and over the last year a number of major improvements have been completed including the ability to email selected categories of players or clubs or districts.

Our national league continues as our most successful event. More home-grown players in our congresses would be very welcome as it seems wrong that we need our English friends to support our competitions. Our overseas congress continues to grow in strength and apparently enjoyed by all participants though again with a large English contingent. This coming year we go back to Paphos in Cypress which was our favourite situation and hotel. There are already a number of bookings and we expect a full venue. The hotel capacity is limited to 30 tables so make sure you book early.

The laws of bridge have had some amendments and we are producing a new rulebook which, despite some late changes, will be ready shortly.

Our aims for education have been extended in the past year and a lot of work has been put in by a number of people in designing new shorter teaching courses, which will not be suitable for everyone.



We have received 3,000 euros from the EBL to fund teaching. This is currently intended to be invested in targeting the 40 to 60-year olds by taking the teaching to their work places. This is still in the development stages.

Our SBU magazine is unfortunately a source of concern as it is costing the members about £1,500 a year and unless we get more subscriptions its future in its present form is in doubt.

It must be remembered that in the SBU all our council members and other assistants are volunteers and we seem to be running short of players willing to assist us in our tasks. Other countries do have paid personnel but this would obviously entail an increase in our membership subscription to follow them. I would point out we have the lowest priced membership in Europe and possibly the world by a margin.

Ian Hunter
President



SCOTTISH BRIDGE UNION

Income and Expenditure Account - year to 31 August 2016

Expenditure	2016	2015	Income	2016	2015
	£	£		£	£
Magazines and diaries	10,769	14,557	Subscriptions	43,426	41,452
Officials & Council expenses	9,964	23,273	Interest & Sundry inc.	4,154	2,500
Honoraria	9,200	17,282	Master Points	13,802	18,121
WBF/EBL/BGB fees	9,359	17,153	Competitions	15,613	17,622
Education and Schools	574	117	Congresses	8,592	10,218
Camroses	6,303	9,019	BGB & Celtic Sims	7,596	6,961
Lady Milne	2,038	4,800	National League	977	1,378
Junior Camrose	3,680	3,620	Commonwealth	-	3,968
Junior European costs	-	6,807	Trials	271	473
Juniors	3,598	5,229	Donations	20,071	-
Insurance	1,689	3,781			
Equipment	-	1,905			
Website & Mepad Development	6,929	8,837			
Europeans	17,856	21,557			
Commonwealth Entry	-	2,280			
Olympiad entry fees	3,479	-			
	<u>85,438</u>	<u>140,217</u>		<u>114,502</u>	<u>102,693</u>
Surplus for year	<u>29,064</u>		Deficit for year	<u>-</u>	<u>37,524</u>
	<u><u>114,502</u></u>	<u><u>140,217</u></u>		<u><u>114,502</u></u>	<u><u>140,217</u></u>

Balance Sheet - as at 31 August 2016

	2016	2015		2016	2015
	£	£		£	£
Assets			Liabilities		
Stocks - various	1,720	2,232	Sundry Creditors	15,752	4,439
Sundry debtors	117	-	VAT	2,988	3,202
Floats	500	500	Junior Reserve	9,289	8,573
Bank balances	68,373	28,733	Capital account	129,205	100,141
Deposits	86,524	84,890			
	<u>157,234</u>	<u>116,355</u>		<u>157,234</u>	<u>116,355</u>



REPORT ON JUNIOR ACTIVITY 2016/2017 BY ANNE SYMONS - MAY 2017

In March 2016, I was approached to take on the role of Junior Co-ordinator, and after consultation with Jenny Cooper, who held that job, it was agreed we would share the responsibility for at least a transition period. Jenny was prepared to carry on with all of the administrative tasks, while I would take on the Training and Development role.

This report, therefore, refers only to T&D. I was responsible for arranging most of the following events:

Frischmann (National Junior Pairs) 2016

Thirteen pairs took part on 20th March at the new Melville Bridge Club. Anne Perkins kindly directed the event, assisted Anne Symons with the organisation on the day, and arranged for the use of the club and all its facilities, free of charge. The trophy wasn't presented as apparently it was lost some time ago.

Junior European Pairs Championships

Latvia, July 12th to 26th 2016. Five pairs participated, and we had one major success when Jun Nakamaru- Pinder and Olivia Bailey won the Gold medal in the Mixed Pairs. This was the best result in an International event by Scotland, ever.

Junior Congress 2016

This was a first attempt at something different. A residential weekend at Stirling University 5th – 7th August, combining play, tuition and hopefully a bit of fun! A total of seventeen students attended; fourteen of those stayed for the weekend, and three came for one day. A separate report has already been filed regarding this event, the summary being that it was a great deal of work for relatively few students. The turnout was disappointing, particularly the number of call-offs. The cost of the weekend was £70 per delegate for the full weekend, which was heavily subsidised by the Junior fund.

Training Days

28th Dec 2016, Glasgow. Run by Paul Gipson with help from Danny Kane. There were several late call-offs and only five students attended

3rd January 2017, Edinburgh. Run by Paul Gipson, assisted by Liz McGowan and Iain Sime. Sixteen students attended.

Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer

Teams were selected to represent Scotland in each of these competitions, and were accompanied by Sandy Duncan and Anne Symons as NPCs. The event took place in Dublin 17th -19th February 2017. A separate report has been filed with details of players and results.

European Online University Championship

Two teams, from Edinburgh and St. Andrews entered in April 2017. This was driven by the students themselves, encouraged by Paul Gipson and Anne Symons.

Nordic Training Camp

14th to 17th April 2017, Sweden. Three juniors attended and were accompanied by Loraine and Steve Findlay from Aberdeen. This seemed to be a very successful trip, but was costly, so numbers were restricted, and a financial contribution was required from the participants. A separate report has been filed.

White House Juniors

25th March to 1st April 2017. We were lucky to receive a late invitation to this tournament, and managed to send a team of four of our keenest Juniors, accompanied by Iain and Linda Sime (who stood in at the last minute when Paul and Helen Gipson called off due to illness). This is a high quality invitational event and was a great learning experience for the team. A separate report has been filed.

Frischmann (Junior National Pairs) 2017

27th May 2017. Seven pairs participated. Once again, the New Melville Bridge Club provided the venue, with all facilities, foc, and Anne Perkins was the TD. Anne Symons and Paul Gipson also attended to offer assistance/ coaching to the less experienced players.

Future Events

The Junior European Teams Championships are being held in Slovakia From July 8th to 15th 2017. We are sending two teams – the U26, captained by Liz McGowan, and an U16 (all girls from Ayrshire), captained by Maureen Rennie.

General Activities

Many of our juniors have participated in National, District and Club events throughout the year. For example, fifteen Juniors (a record number) played in the Hutcheson's Swiss Pairs, in February. Several have attended Congresses, and some have joined District League teams to gain experience playing at a higher level. Much time has been spent practising online, often supervised by Paul Gipson or Anne Symons. Many volunteered to operate Vugraph when International competitions were hosted by Scotland.

Mentors/Helpers

We are very lucky to have a group of willing volunteers who give their time freely to help with Junior Development. In particular, I'd like to thank the following tutors:

Paul Gipson, Liz McGowan, Danny Kane, Iain Sime, Bob McPaul, John Di Mambro, Ronald Gaffin, Maureen Rennie, Pauline Phillips, Loraine Findlay, Sandy Duncan, Jim Hay, Alisdair McLeod, Sam Punch, Gordon Smith, Tim Wickens.

Summary

This has been a challenging year. Although I had previously helped with Junior training, I found it difficult to try and arrange events when communication with some of the Juniors was so poor, and some don't respond to emails. I have resorted to texting



individuals (where possible) to try to get a response, which does seem to work. There is a core of keen and potentially very good players, but I feel we need to increase the size of the pool, to improve the social element, and thereby maintain interest. Hopefully this will happen naturally, as the school mini-bridge players come up through the ranks. We do have a nice bunch of youngsters, most of whom actually try very hard to compete and it's important to encourage their participation in as many events as possible. I'd like to see free entry to all events, from club to national level, for all Juniors. I have added below some details Paul Gipson has sent me regarding specific achievements.

Paul's thoughts

Juniors achievements 2016-17

This season has seen most of the U26 squad participate in an increasing number of SBU and representative events. They have matured and are now capable of challenging stronger teams, and are also being invited to play with established teams and stronger players.

At the same time, we have a shortfall of U21 players, with only two experienced players carried over from last year and one of them playing with his U26 partner in representative events. Although there are some promising young players in Glasgow, Ayr, and Aberdeen, they are all very inexperienced with many activities (and school) competing for their time.

- one junior, Jun, played in the Camrose Trophy and reached the semi-final of the Scottish Cup. A junior team entered the Scottish Cup but failed to beat the experienced Shenkin team.
- nine junior players played in the 2016 National League, six in a junior team and three others in 'senior' teams
- seven juniors played at the 2017 Winter Fours, one reached the final, one reached the consolidation final; four caused the biggest upset of the weekend, beating Steel (Steel, Matheson, Short, Goodman) over 32 boards, and narrowly lost to Shenkin and Outred to miss out on the consolation final - they then won the bronze prize in the Winter Swiss
- six juniors played in the National Men's Teams
- many juniors play at the district congresses and events, although less so at Peebles due to the cost
- five juniors operated the BBO Vugraph for the second Camrose weekend
- Matthew and Damien were part of the winning team at the Central District George Ferrier Trophy

Personally, what I find more encouraging is that many of these juniors are now being invited to play in these events in non-junior teams. Some of this is due to the generosity of mentors, but few would enter national events with them unless they were a reasonable standard:

- four juniors are playing in Iain Sime's 49ers, an East District title-chasing team
- Iain Sime and Harry Smith both asked juniors as substitutes for their Winter Fours teams, Harry making the Consolation Final.
- Harry also asked two juniors to play in the National Men's Teams on his team
- Abi and Gints played in the Mixed Pairs/Teams weekend with non-juniors
- Abi played with Sam Punch in the Women's Pairs/Teams weekend

I think that this group of juniors has been helped by having a nucleus of keen Montrose Academy players who have welcomed others into their group. They all play on BBO regularly with other European juniors using connections made at the Finland Midsummer event and Junior European Championships. I doubt that many SBU members appreciate the long-term positive impact that these international events have had on our juniors.

I have also been impressed by how much the squad helps each other. Ronan has spent a lot of time working with Matthew and Damian helping them learn their system more fully, refining their agreements along the way.

I'm sure all the squad would like to thank everyone who has helped them over the year, including Bob McPaul, Sandy Duncan, Jim Hay, Sam Punch, Danny Kane, Alex Adamson, Harry Smith, Iain Sime, John Matheson, Sarah and John Williams, Loraine Findlay, Maureen Rennie, and Pauline Phillips.

