



Scottish Bridge Union

President's Report - April 2016

President's Report - April 2016

Since the Council meeting in early February, I have played in the [Hutcheson's Shield](#), the [Mixed Swiss Pairs](#), the [West District Pairs Semi-Final](#), the [Men's Pairs Final](#), the [Senior Trials](#), the [National Pairs Semi-Final](#), the final of the [West District Handicap Cup](#), the [Benjamin Individual Trophy](#) and the [National Pairs Final](#). I have also directed at the [Junior Camrose and Peggy Bayer](#) and the [West District Club Championship](#). In addition, I attended the Glasgow heat of the [School's MiniBridge Championship](#) and took part in the seminar for senior directors run by Fearghal O'Boyle from the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland - many thanks to him for presenting such a successful event.

Between now and our Annual General Meeting at the end of May, I plan to play in the [National Swiss Pairs](#) and the first round of the [Scottish Cup](#) as well as directing at our [Overseas Congress](#) in Mlini in Croatia.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the successful team who won the [Lady Milne Trophy](#) - Michele Gladstone, Paula Leslie, Helen Kane, Liz McGowan, Sam Punch, Anne Symons and their non-playing captain, Alan Goodman. The event was secured with a match to spare, averaging over 17VPs per match - a tremendous performance!

Unfortunately I was unable to attend this month's Council meeting as I was overseas but many thanks to Mike Ash, our Past President, for chairing the meeting in my absence, particularly as I can see from the minutes that there were a large number of agenda items to be covered:

- Agreement was reached on Council's recommendations to the AGM for a **slimmed-down Council structure** and revised voting procedures. Hopefully this will lead to shorter Council meetings with most decisions being delegated to the various sub-committees. I am also hoping for more effective communication between Council and Districts who should be, in turn, closer to the views of affiliated clubs. This will generate a number of changes to our **Constitution** which will be put forward at the AGM.
- Sign-off was agreed on our response to the lawyer's letter whose clients were questioning the appropriateness of our selection process for the **European Women's Team Championship** in Budapest in June. We believe that our selectors acted within their Terms of Reference and have the backing of Council.
- It was agreed that the Master Point Policy Committee should carry out a full review of **master point awards** and entry requirements with an emphasis on consistency and fairness.
- Due to competing personal priorities, Ann Wickens has tendered her resignation as Convener of the **Education sub-Committee**. She has recommended that the role be split into a number of individual responsibilities and Council would welcome approaches from any members who feel that they can help us to co-ordinate our efforts to continue and to expand the teaching of bridge to adults and secondary school pupils and MiniBridge to primary school pupils.
- It was agreed that Anne Symons and Jenny Cooper would take joint responsibility for the **Junior Co-ordinator** role.
- Following a report from our Treasurer, ongoing discussions took place on our **financial position** and future projections.
- Council confirmed that Scotland do wish to enter teams into the **World Bridge Games** in Poland in September but, given current financial constraints, cannot commit to provide funding support at this stage.
- The Tournament Committee reported on changes to the format of the qualifying stages of the **National Pairs** and the timing of the **Women's Pairs and Teams** - details will be published in the 2016/17 diary.
- A new suite of regional and national **Bronze tournaments** is being developed to encourage the large number of members in this category to participate in competitive events.
- **Disciplinary procedures** have been expanded in the light of guidelines from WBF on the increased frequency of cheating at international level.
- It was agreed that **psychic bids** would be recorded centrally and reviewed by Law & Ethics Committee for emerging trends - details (without names) will be published on the website.

As I will be stepping down as President at next month's AGM, this will be my last President's report. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mike Ash, Past President and all other Council members for their support over the last two years.

I also extend my very best wishes to my successor - Ian Hunter was voted in as President Elect last year and his appointment as President will be formally proposed at this year's AGM.