

Scottish Bridge Union



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Review of Scottish Summer Congress 2014

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our recent Summer Congress at Peebles Hydro such a resounding success. A special vote of thanks must go to Dr John Matheson who delivered our first Master Class for us and to Andrew Barnes and Steve Bailey who produced the Sunday bulletin. These two innovations added a little extra interest to a weekend of bridge which was so professionally run by our new Congress Manager, Ian Ross, ably assisted by his team of excellent directors. I have had numerous comments of congratulations from all airts, and I welcome them, but I want more; I want our Scottish Congresses to be the very best they can be.

Peebles Hydro holds a special place in our hearts and it was so good to hear that the new owners are doing all they can to bring the hotel back to its past splendour. We hear that five million pounds will be spent on the hotel and its grounds over the next three years and I could tell, just by speaking to the staff, many of whom have been there for a number of years, that there is now a buzz about the place, a buzz of hope and enthusiasm. Those of you who have been attending our Scottish congresses for some time will know that, in recent years, there has been a decline in the hotel, sad for us because we were witnessing a death before our very eyes, a death of something dear to us. I have no doubt that the decline in the hotel has been a contributory factor in the decline in our congress numbers too. If there is a turn-around in the hotel, can we make the same thing happen to our attendance figures? I am told time and time again that people love to come to our Scottish congresses, not just at Peebles but overseas too. If that is so, then why do we have declining numbers? I suspect that there are a variety of excuses for not attending and I do intend, in time, to try to address these issues. The Scottish Congress, in essence, must be all things to all men!

The Scottish Bridge Union National Autumn Congress will be held at Peebles Hydro from 17th – 20th October. Our very own Liz McGowan, well known at home and abroad not only for being a formidable opponent at the bridge table but also an excellent newspaper bridge columnist and bridge teacher, will deliver our next Master Class. Also, our Roving Reporter will be out and about looking for a good story! To encourage more newcomers to the game to come along and experience the excitement of a National Congress, there will be another Improvers' Congress that same weekend. The October brochure for both the Main and Improvers Congresses, complete with entry form, can be found on the SBU website – www.sbu.org.uk. Why don't you come along and join us?

Joan Lees
Congress Convener
July 2014



4th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships - September 2014