

Review of SBU Summer Congress held at Peebles Hydro from 8th – 11th July 2016

I'm happy to report that our latest congress was extremely successful. That said, the numbers were down slightly on last year, continuing the downward spiral of recent years. Thanks to our EBU friends, who make up more than one-third of our numbers. SPREAD THE WORD!!!

I was delighted to hear positive comments on the hotel at last, many of you going out of your way to praise noticeable improvements, particularly in the food.

As far as the bridge was concerned, Horst's team of directors, scorer and dealer did a sterling job and absolutely must be congratulated! It can often be a thankless task, pleasing bridge players, but I would like to put on record how grateful I am to have such a superb group of dedicated workers supporting me.

The two-session pairs qualifying rounds seemed to be well received. Andrew, our scorer, would be interested to hear of any further feedback on this change.

We were privileged to have Brian Senior, a professional bridge player and author of some repute, preside over our Saturday morning Master Class. Rather than confine himself to one particular topic, Brian was content to discuss a few of the previous day's hands, the play or bidding of which had puzzled even some of our most experienced players. Even though I hadn't been lucky enough to have played any of these hands, I nevertheless found Brian's explanations fascinating. We were indeed fortunate to have had this expert insight and I, once again, do thank Brian most sincerely for giving of his valuable time.

Please consider coming to our next congress at Peebles in October, 21st – 24th, brochure attached with this review. Remember to book early if there is a particular room number or type you desire. Jim Hay will be hosting the master class on this occasion. Jim is a well-known and well-regarded player in Scotland and I am sure that you will find his presentation extremely informative.

In October too, alongside the main congress, we have the Bronze Congress. Despite the fact that this is the only national bronze congress event in Scotland, and is held only twice a year in July and October, support is sadly lacking. Come on Scotland! Support your national bronze event! If the two-day event is too much for you (stamina is required for all that concentrating), then why not just come for a day? Not as much fun but better than languishing at home!!

I'll expect a flood of entries in the post then, shall I? See you in October.....

Joan Lees

July 2016