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**Report of Tournament Secretary 2016**

1. **Congress review:**

The Manchester Congress was well received this year with many people commenting very positively on the venue, organisation and directing. However parking was something of an issue and needs to be investigated for next year. The venue is rebooked for next year. Entries for the Championship Event were down this year compared to the previous four. However, entries for the Player Progress event remained steady. The use of the spreadsheet, devised by Jeff Smith, for income and prizes proved to be very useful for Barbara Lewis who organised the prizes. Thanks to Irene Davies for organising the event.

See full report by the Congress Secretary, Irene Davies.

1. **Competitions review:**

**Ben Franks Trophy:**

The Ben Franks is our major pair’s competition and qualifier for the Corwen Trophy. There were 21 pairs entered, a decline in entries over the previous 4 years. The winners were Michael Byrne and Mike Newman, who unfortunately are unable to play in the Corwen. Our qualifiers are: Robert Myers and Ollie Burgess, Graham Campbell and Lyndsay Barnes and Gillian McMullan and Neil Thomas. Michael Byrne has contacted Raymond Semp and Kenneth Hassell to ascertain availability to take our allocated 4th slot. The event made a small profit this year.

**Gazette Cup:**

This is the counties major teams of 8 competition and Qualifier for the Garden Cities Trophy .There was a good turnout of 10 teams this year with Stretford club represented at the event for the first time. This was due to the sustained efforts of Barbara Lewis, John Fitzgerald, Jeff Morris, Richard Acaster and Ann Thornton. The event ran very smoothly and was competently directed by Joan Lewis with the help of Gordon Bickley.

The Winners were Manchester Burgess. The team, Edward Levy, Robert Myers, Jeff Morris, John Hassett, David Sarabowski, Andy Green, Adrian Kenworthy and Justin Hackett won the Northern Regional Final of the Garden Cities on 7th May and they progress to the national final in June.

The Intermediate winners were Fitzgerald 1.

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| **Gazette Trophy number of entries** |
| **Year** | **No of teams** | **Teams** |
| **2016** | **10** | **Manchester x 3, Altrincham x 2, Cheadle Hulme x 2, Bramhall x 2, Stretford 1** |
| **2015** | **9** | **Manchester x 4, Altrincham x 2, Cheadle Hulme x 2, Bramhall x 1** |
| **2014** | **5** | **Manchester x 2, Cheadle Hulme x 2, Bramhall x 1** |
| **2013** | **7** | **Manchester x 3, Cheadle Hulme x 2, Altrincham x 1, Bramhall x 1** |
| **2012** | **6** | **Manchester x 3, Cheadle Hulme x 2, Altrincham x 1** |
| **2011** | **6** | **Manchester x 2, Cheadle Hulme x 2, Bramhall x 1, Altrincham x 1** |

**Merville Goldstone Trophy:**

This proved to be a successful event and it is recommended that the event continue next year. This year 22 teams entered the goldstone Cup, one more than last year. There was a good spread of teams throughout the divisions. Starting the competition at the same time as the league is a good initiative which helps now the completion has another round to play. The same format should apply next year. A set of rules has been agreed and are displayed on web site.

The final is due to played next week and is between St Titus and Jeff Morris team, a repeat of last year’s final. Thanks to Roger Hopton for organising the event.

See full report by Roger Hopton.

**Intermediate Pairs:**

The Intermediate Pairs event was once again very successful with everyone enjoying the day of bridge. Thanks must be given to Barbara Lewis who worked hard to organise the event and to Joan Lewis for directing.

**Cantor cup**

BarbaraLewis reported that his went well with 12 tables, mainly recruited from MBC. Barbara is optimistic about getting numbers in future years and so would support keeping this event for newcomers. Thanks to Jeff Morris for his hard work in recruiting pairs. There were 8 juniors playing in the event.

**Player of the Year Competition:**

The revamped PotY for the intermediate category has been a success involving more players and making the competition a well contested event.

See full report by Rodney Lighton.

1. **Tournament Committee**

Tournament Committee members for 2016-17 as follows:

Ann Thornton, Irene Davies, Michael Byrne, Kevin Comrie, Bob Cooke, Rhona Goldenfield, Barbara Lewis, Joan Lewis, Jeff Smith, Susan Triggs, Karen Sandler and Rodney Lighton.

**Ann Thornton 2016**