**AGM 2018 Paper 1: Report of Officers to AGM**

**4.1 Chairman (Irene Davies)**

It’s been a mixed year for the MCBA. We operate in a context of a declining game nationally and relative to that we are reasonably healthy. Our membership is reasonably static We are competitive in all events nationally and have a good take up of our own events. Another club, Besses O’ th Barn have joined the MCBA. Our best players are involved in In the International scene.

But we have lost the Bridge club at the University this year and the age profile of our membership is somewhat depressing as it can only point toward decline if we don’t address recruitment of new blood. 75% of the EBU’s membership is over 65 with 40% being 75 or over.The Clubs that are doing well, in terms of increasing their membership, are the clubs that have brought in new bridge players through Learn Bridge classes and then integrated them into the clubs with gentle duplicates. These are the clubs that cater much better for the “Social” bridge players.

It would be great to recruit new young people to the game and the County will redouble its efforts around Manchester University this coming year. But realistically the growth area is the age range nearing retirement and the retired. The health benefits for that age group being widely advertised.

To address this problem the MCBA, Merseyside and Cheshire and Lancashire Counties would like to fund a Regional Development Officer, for a year in the first instance, on the lines of the successful development in Yorkshire. Their work would be directed by a membership development sub -committee in Manchester. The cost would be about £700 in the first year. A motion to this effect will be put at the AGM. It may or may not be the answer but it is a question the County needs to address.

The County’s officers this year have been busy preparing for the new Data Protection laws that come in at the May. We are happy to give clubs advice and hope that the workings of the County won’t be too much effected by the new laws.

Our treasurer , Peter Green, has had to step down from this role because of increased paid work commitments. We are happy to welcome Joy Blakey as our new treasurer.

Thanks is due to all the officers of the County who put in some fantastic work, all voluntary, ensuring that all EBU members can enjoy the game they love.

**Roll Of Honour May 2017 –April 2018**

**National Swiss Teams Congress.**

Manchester players were in each of the top three teams at the Swiss Teams in Solihull on 13-14th May.Michael Byrne's team (Toby Nonnenmacher, Ed Jones, Kieran Dyke) won. Catherine Draper and Andrew Woodcock were second playing with Nicola Smith and Michael Prior and John Holland was third with Ben Green, Barry Myers and Sally Brock.

**Teltscher Trophy**

The Senior Camrose took place on 19th-21st May in Belfast.  John Holland played for England with team mates Nick Irens, David Kendrick, Tony Forrester and Norman Selway. The team won ahead of Ireland.

**John Armstrong Pairs**

About a dozen Manchester pairs went to Merseyside on Sunday 21st May for the John Armstrong Swiss Pairs event.  Successful were Steve Mattinson and Pauline Lang in second place,

**Bank Holiday Events**

Michael Byrne won the Swiss Teams at Stratford on Monday 29th May with Stephen Kennedy, Ben Norton and Andrew Murphy.

Meanwhile at Bolton John Holland, Alan Mould, Raymond Semp and John Hassett won the Swiss Teams ahead of Janet Tolan, Andy Green, Michael Wymer and Stephen Ward.

**Corwen Trophy**

Michael Byrne and John Holland who won the Inter County pairs event at Northampton on 3rd-4th June.  They led after three of the four sessions and finished with a score of 61%.

**European Open**

The European Open Championships were held at Montecatini, Italy from 10th-24th June.  Michael Byrne and John Holland from Manchester played in some of the events. John Holland was awarded his place in the EBL Hall of Fame.

**Hubert Phillips Final**

The final of the EBU Mixed Pivot Teams was held at Manchester Bridge Club on Sunday June 25th.  Around 20 spectators turned up at one time or another.  Michael Byrne, Ollie Burgess, Fiona Brown and Hugh McGann beat Jeff Smith, Jackie Pye, Alan Mould, John Holland over 60 boards.  Four of the eight finalists were Manchester players.

**Scarborough Summer Congress**

Joyce and Bill White who won the B teams with Babs Matthews and John Farmer of Cumbria on Sunday 30th July in the EBU congress.

**Eastbourne**The EBU's main congress of the year took place from 4th to 13th August.  
In the Swiss Pairs played over the first weekend Alan Nelson and John Holland were fourth and Kath Nelson and Jeff Smith were eighth.  
In the Senior's pairs Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield were second with John Holland and Alan Nelson third.  
Michael Byrne won the GCH Fox pairs with Jonathan Richards.  
In the Mixed Pivot Teams John Holland, Peter Jones and Raymond Semp were second playing with Karen Harris.  
Michael Byrne won the Thursday Open Pairs with Karen Harris.  
Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, Alan and Kath Nelson won the Seniors Swiss Teams.  
Michael Byrne and Rhona Goldenfield were second in the Mixed Pairs.  
John Holland and Michael Byrne won the point a board teams with Mike and Sarah Bell.  
And finally Michael Byrne rounded off a very successful week by winning the Four Star Teams with Kieran Dyke, Mike Bell, Sarah Bell and Marion Robertson.

**Preston Blue Point Pairs**

Ann Thornton and Mary Green finished second in the 12 table event at Preston on Sunday 6th August.

**Venice Cup**Catherine Draper played on the England Womens Team in the world championships in Lyons from 12th to 26th August, she partnered Nicola Smith with Sally Brock, Fiona Brown, Nevena Senior and Sandra Penfold being the other players.  England reached the final against China, having won a tense semi-final against Sweden, but lost, conceding after five of the six sets.

**Bolton Congress**John Currie, Rodney Lighton, Nicholas Greer and Neil Thomas won the Swiss teams at Bolton on 3rd September for the third year running.  
Stephen Ward and Michael Wymer were second in the consolation pairs on the previous day.

**Guernsey Congress**In the Senior's pairs on the 13th Sept. at the EBU congress Joy and Irving Blakey won with Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield third.  
The Goldenfields and the Blakeys won the multiple teams on the 14th Sept. and the seniors teams on the 14-15th Sept. and were second in the Swiss teams on the final weekend.

**Cumbria GP Weekend**

Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won the Swiss Pairs at Kendal on 24th September.

**Great Northern Swiss Pairs**

John Holland won at Leeds with Clive Owen on the 30th Sept to 1st Oct.  They previously won this event in 2005.

**EBU Holiday Congress**

Joy and Irving Blakey were winners of the Swiss Teams at Halkidiki with Tom Gisborne and Sandy Davies of Yorkshire on 15th October.  Second were Bill and Joyce White playing with Babs and Tim Matthews of Cumbria.

**Lancashire Congress**

John Holland and Rodney Lighton won the Swiss Pairs at Brierfield on Saturday 28th October averaging over 17 VPs per match.  Gary Hyett was third playing with Alan Cooke.    
In the Swiss Teams on Sunday at Bolton Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won playing with Jackie Pye and Jeff Smith of Lancashire.  Second were Gary Hyett, Alan Cooke, Raymond Semp and Henry Bissell.

**Premier League**   
Manchester players participating in the 3 divisions of the Premier League were Michael Byrne, Alan Mould, John Holland, Jeff Morris, John Hassett, Alec Smalley, Tom Slater, Catherine Draper , Andrew Woodcock and Ollie Burgess.

Manchester Bridge Club hosted the top 2 divisions of the Premier league over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th September.

At the end of the third and final week Michael Byrnes team (Kieran Dyke, Jeffrey Allerton, Chris Jagger and Frances Hinden) were second behind the Alfrey team in division 1. Jeff Morris’ team (John Hassett, Alec Smalley, Tom Slater, Catherine Draper and Andrew Woodcock) were second in division 2 and gained promotion to Division 1.

**Pendle Witch Pairs**

On Sunday 12th November at Brierfield John Currie and Kath Nelson won ahead of Janet Tolan and Andy Green with last year's winners Boris Ewart and Peter Foster third.  This is John Currie's third win in four years in this event.

**Llangollen Swiss Teams**In the Welsh Bridge Union event over the weekend of 25-26th November Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, John Holland and Jackie Pye won just ahead of Michael Byrne's team (Fiona Brown, Hugh McGann, Ciaran Coyle)

**Senior Trials**

The trials for the Teltscher Trophy team took place in Solihull on 16-17th December.  Gary Hyett and Alan Mould playing with Barry Myers and Rob Sheehan finished in fourth place out of six, John Holland playing with Gunnar Hallberg, David Mossop, David Burn, Paul Hackett and Brian Senior in fifth place.

**Blackpool Year End**

Manchester pairs dominated the Swiss Pairs at the Year End Congress on 28-29th December.  Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won just ahead of John Holland and Alan Mould (who had won the previous three years) with Andy Green and Haidee Tattersall doing very well to finish in third place.

**Camrose**Michael Byrne played for England in the first weekend of the home internationals from 5th-7th January in Belfast.  He was selected as a result of finishing second in the Premier League in the autumn with Kieran Dyke, Jeffrey Allerton, Chris Jagger, Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne.  The England team lead after the first weekend with Michael and Kieran playing very well, winning every match that they played in and finishing second of all the pairs in the cross-IMP ranking.

**NICKO**

The Cheadle Hulme team of Royce Alexander, John Currie, Tom Slater and Alec Smalley knocked out the seeded Manchester Bridge club team in their second round match on 4th January.

**Open Trials**The pairs trials for the England team to play in the European Championship this year took place in London from 12th to 15th January.  Michael Byrne played with Kieran Dyke of London against nine other pairs.  The top two join the pre-selected pair of Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson.  After lying in the top three almost all of the event Michael and Kieran finished third, with the top three well clear of the rest.  This was no doubt very disappointing for them, but they played extremely well and could well earn European selection in the future.

**Preston Blue Point Teams**

Preston BC have new premises. As a result they were able to accommodate 14 teams for a multi-team event on Sunday 14th January.  With a huge score Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won the event with Jeff Smith and Jackie Pye.

**National Point-a-board teams**

John Holland playing with Ben Green and Alan Mould with Barry Myers finished third in the final at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on January 20-21.

**Chester Congress**

In the Chester Congress pairs at Deva on 27th January Nigel Pearce and Keith Boulton finished third in the final and Paul Murray and Peter Grauer won the consolation final.  Rodney Lighton and John Currie won the qualifying section.    
In the Swiss teams Kath and Alan Nelson, Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield were third with Barbara Eastabrook, Ian Kane, John Fitzgerald and Karen Jones fourth.

**Commonwealth Nations Bridge**

Gary Hyett played for England A with Bill Hirst, Steve Eginton, Brian Callaghan and Chris Duckworth in Australia starting on Wednesday 14th February.  In the invitational pairs before the teams event Gary came 13th playing with Barbara Travis of Australia.  In the teams event England finished eighth in the qualifying Swiss and then lost a close match to a Scottish team in the quarter finals.

**EBU Spring Congress**

At Harrogate on 18th February Alan Mould, John Holland, Jeff Smith and Jackie Pye won the Swiss Teams; Bernard & Rhona Goldenfield, Kath & Alan Nelson were third.

**Lederer Trophy**

This annual invitation event in London took place on February 24th- 25th.  Many of the world's top players were playing.  Manchester interest was provided by John Holland and Alan Mould who played for the Chairman's team with Sally Brock, Barry Myers and Mike & Sarah Bell.  They did extrememly well to finish third behind the Israel national team and Zia's team.

**Gold Coast Congress**

After the Commonwealth Games event had finished many England players went on to play in the teams event at the Gold Coast congress.  Gary Hyett playing with Steve Eginton, Bill Hirst, Phil Gue, David Weston and Julian Foster qualified from twelve rounds of Swiss to reach the knock out stages where they lost in the semi-final to the Hinden team.

**Ranked Masters Pairs**

Very few Manchester players entered the various ranked masters pairs over the weekend of 24-25th February.  Congratulations to Pete Foster who came second in the Premier Life Masters playing with John Liebeschuetz of Cambridge.

**Sunday Telegraph Salver**

John Holland has regained the Sunday Telegraph Salver, for the most Master Points earned in the calendar year. John, who has won the competition on five previous occasions, earned 21,251 points in 2017. The 2016 winner, Mike Bell, was second with 20,604 and Michael Byrne was third with 18,929.

**Senior's Trials for Europeans**

The first stage of the trials for the England Senior's European team took place on Feb 3rd-4th at Solihull.  Four teams participated with the top two playing off in March.  Manchester interest was provided by Alan Mould (with Barry Myers, Pat Collins and Norman Selway) and John Holland and John Hassett (with Gunnar Hallberg, Paul Hackett, David Mossop and Brian Senior).  John Holland and John Hassett's team won, but Alan's team finished third. In the play -off final in March the Shelley team defeated the Hackett team which included John Holland and John Hassett.

**Cumbria Congress**

The Cumbria Congress took place on 8th-10th March at Grange over Sands. Catherine Draper and Andrew Woodcock won the main pairs event and were second in the teams with Michael Pryor and Keith Ashcroft. Karen Jones and Barbara Eastabrook won the Ladies Pairs, Pauline Lang and Steve Mattinson won the Mixed pairs and Paul Murray and Peter Grauer were second in the Men’s pairs.

**Northern Pairs**Karen Reissmann and Irene Davies were second at Bradford on 18th March, Gary Hyett was third with Margaret Howe, Catherine Draper fourth with Andrew Petrie and John Holland and Tony Coley were sixth.  Gary & Margaret, Catherine & Andrew, John & Tony qualified for the national final.

**Portland Pairs**The EBU's mixed pairs event was held at multiple centres on Sunday 25th March.  Many local pairs played at Brierfield where the most successful nationally were Eve Lighthill and Raymond Semp who, having lead overall after the first session, finished 18th.  John Holland and Jackie Pye were just behind them.

**Northern Easter Festival**

At Leeds on 30-31st March Alan Mould and John Holland won the Swiss Pairs with Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield third.  In the mixed pairs on Thursday John Holland and Jackie Pye were second.

**Llangollen**

At the North Wales Swiss congress on 7-8th April leading Manchester pair on the Saturday were Joy and Irving Blakey in third place.  In the Swiss Teams Kath and Alan Nelson with Raymond Semp and John Hassett were second, Bernard & Rhona Goldenfield, Joy and Irving Blakey were third.

**Garden Cities Regional Finals**

The Manchester Bridge Club team of David Debbage, Michael Newman, Andrew Woodcock, Catherine Draper, Edward Levy, Robert Myers, John Hassett and Jeff Morris won the Northern heat at Bradford and qualify for the National finals in June.  Catherine and Andrew headed the cross IMPs.

**Spring Simultaneous Pairs**

Keith Boulton and Barry Blyth won this event nationally at Prestbury on Tuesday 10th April and Rod Franks and Steve Mattinson were second overall playing at Altrincham on Wednesday 11th April.

**Congratulations to all.**

**4.2 Secretary (Alan Mould)**

Alan Mould took over the role of secretary shortly after last year’s AGM, at which he could not be present. He struggled with the role up for the first six months as his house was undergoing a major refurbishment and his wife was completing a 20,000 word dissertation. The dissertation is now complete and Alan is now back in his house, so life has got easier and he has been able to devote more time to the role. The year fell into two rather distinct halves. In the first half he dealt with:

* Correspondence from the EBU relating to the Garden Cities Regional final
* Correspondence from the EBU relating to Tollemache and Pachabo entries
* The papers for the EBU AGM in November 2017
* Correspondence concerning EBU affiliation, county and club fees
* Correspondence asking for comment on the EBU 5 year strategic plan (this is being dealt with by the chair)
* Other matters of a minor nature

The second half of the period has been dominated by communication concerning the changes in the data protection act (the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) that will come into force on 25th May 2018 (ie two days after the AGM). This will require a major overhaul of all of our systems. It is an agenda item, so I will say nothing more about it here. Closely related to that, is a document the EBU has circulated concerning the data that counties can access on its members from the EBU, and the data the EBU requires on members from counties. This will again be picked up the same agenda item.

I am indebted to Michael Newman and Irene Davies for their invaluable assistance to me in transitioning to the role during this year.

In addition, the EBU has asked for comment on their draft five year strategic plan (this is being dealt with by the chair), and I have received notice of the changes in county and club fees (paper attached).

**4.3 Treasurer (Peter Green) (accounts attached separately as Paper 2)**

The results for the year show a small surplus of £28.

In summary, we have received approx. £3K from the EBU for P2P and direct memberships, made a £2K surplus on the League and Cup and made just under £1K on the two Green Pointed events at Altrincham. We have used about half of the £6K to enter and send players to representative competitions such as the Tollemache and the All Counties Final, the remainder has been spent on other bridge related activities such as the Northern Bridge League, hosting the Derbyshire friendly and seminars, as well as the admin costs of the MCBA.

Net assets at 31st March 2018 totalled £15,911 (2017 £15,883). Bank balances consist of £5,612 in the Nat West current account and £10,932 in the Skipton Building Society account. Overall the MCBA remains in a healthy financial position.

For a detailed breakdown of the result please see the enclosed Income and Expenditure Account and the details provided in the notes pages.

The overall result compares a reported surplus of £3,480 in 16/17 and a deficit of £1,241 in 15/16. There are a large number of factors in the variances, some of which are mentioned below. There are a number of one-off factors such as hosting the Derbyshire match this year and a mismatch of costs between 15/16 and 16/17 and we have invested money such as the £529 in new boards, cards and boxes, which will benefit us in the future, however the fall in income at Manchester Congress and in the P2P income was also clearly a factor.

Pay to play income fell by £391 compared to the previous year to £2,481. The EBU collect P2P money each time bridge is played at a club and a percentage is paid back to MCBA. Direct membership income, where the EBU pay us £5 for each EBU Direct member, has risen this year by £90 to £325.

The Manchester League and Cup have produced a surplus of £2,096, which is similar to last year and once again makes a substantial contribution to the MCBA’s finances.

The Green Point Swiss Pairs and Swiss Teams run by Rhona have once again proved to be very successful raising £876 over the two tournaments.

Manchester Congress pretty much broke even (a small deficit of £79) which was a good result particularly given the fall in income generated this year of £517.

The remaining events this year, in particular the Ben Franks, Summer and Autumn Intermediate pairs and the new Intermediate Swiss pairs in April all managed to broadly break even.

In terms of expenses we spent £2,641 on sending representatives to the various competitions, the largest cost relates to the Tollemache of £1,423, the cost reflecting the success in the Qualifier in November leading to attendance at the final in February.

It was our turn to host the Derbyshire match in 2017 at a cost of £367.

We also invested £141 in the youth budget for director training and £529 within the Bridge Equipment total was spent on improving our stock of Boards and cards particularly for the main Congress event.

The Cantor family kindly donated £6000 last year to fund the Cantor Cup for new tournament bridge players, this money is held in a separate bank account on their behalf, thus far we have used £181 last year and £172 for the current year to subsidise the event. Adding back a small amount of bank interest there is £5,649 left in the account, so at the current rate of spending the tournament should be fully funded for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all those who have helped me this year to make my year as Treasurer an enjoyable experience, particularly the excellent support from the event organisers.

AUDIT REPORT

I hereby confirm that the Income & Expenditure Account of the Manchester

County Bridge Association for the year ended 31st March 2018 and the Balance

Sheet at that date have been properly prepared from the accounting records of the Association.

H B Stubbings FCA

Hon Auditor

24th April 2018

**4.4 League Secretary and Goldstone Convenor**

**(Kath Nelson – League and Higson Cup, Roger Hopton – Goldstone)**

**League**

66 teams entered, one more than last year but one team dropped out when all the teams had been allocated, making the number 65. I placed them as follows:

* 11 in Div 1-2
* 10 in Division 3 & 4
* 9 in Div 5
* 8 in Div 6
* 7 in Div 7

All matches were completed on schedule, by the end of April.

**Cup**

50 teams entered, with free entry for Divisions 6 & 7.

We decided to use the EBU automated Knockout program which was very time consuming entering the details for each team, names, EBU numbers, email addresses (thanks to Jeff Smith for his assistance). Hopefully next time the work will be less.

The Cup & Plate final took place at the end of April, 8 teams in the Cup final 8 teams in the Plate final. One of the finalists in the Plate could not make the date so their place was offered to the team they had beaten in the semi-final.

A working party is being set up to review the rules. One of the items which will be looked at is the thorny problem of substitutes. Opinions differ as to the how strict the rules should be. Players tend to be quite relaxed about this, not realising the impact substitutes can have on the whole of division, to those seeking promotion or relegation. Also, the subject of substitutes for the Higson Finals will be considered. Should a team bring in substitutes for the Final or give way to the team they beat in the semi final?

The online booking form continues to be invaluable for entries and great for checking back Everyone seems accustomed now to entering their League results online although new entrants need some help.

**Goldstone Cup**

The event was well supported and had a similar entry to last year with 22 teams entering. Entry was:

Division       No of teams

1                   3

2                   4

3                   8

4                   2

5                   2

6                   1

7                   2

The competition ran smoothly. One match was a walk over because a date could not be arranged - Rejuvinated was not able to offer dates.

The competition is seeded, so the lower teams don't play a top team in the first round

I don't propose any changes.

**4.5 Membership Secretary (Karen Sandler)**

There are only 3 categories now: P2P, Student and Direct, plus one member is a young junior. Students are now identified on the spreadsheet. There are also subcategories of BFA year 1 and 2, Fasttrack and EBTA. These are double-counted within PTP, Direct etc. Therefore, I will split them out.

                2016/7

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| P2P | **1299** |  |
| Junior/Student | **36** |  |
| Direct Members | **55** |  |
| Direct Juniors | **0** |  |
| Teachers | **0** |  |
| Anonymous | **0** |  |
| Bridge for All | **0** |  |
| CT | **0** |  |
| PT | **0** |  |
| TOTAL from spreadsheet | **1391** |  |

October 2017

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| P2P | **1278** |  |
| Junior/Student | **30** |  |
| Direct Members | **65** |  |
| Direct Juniors | **0** |  |
| Teachers - EBTA | **23** |  |
| Total | **1396** |  |
| TOTAL from spreadsheet | **1374** |  |

                March 2018

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| P2P | **1294** |  |
| Junior/Student | **20** |  |
| Direct Members | **62** |  |
| (Teachers - EBTA | **24)** |  |
| Total | **1376** |  |
| TOTAL from spreadsheet | **1362** |  |

Some students are direct members, and some are PTP. Some are nothing. Therefore, the actual figures are declining, with a total of 1362.

The EBTA, or teachers are all within the PTP figures.

**Therefore, the real figure is 1362, with 1294 as PTP.**

Within this membership period, Besses has become a registered EBU club, and some, but not all of its members have become PTP members. It has introduced 14 new PTP members.

KS has only been notified of 3 changes of county, 2 out of Manchester, and one in.

The net result is that, as things stand, the number of players is dropping, but the number of PTP is still healthy.

**4.6 Tournament Secretary (Ann Thornton)**

This has been a good year with events well supported. My thanks go to all those involved in directing, organising, promoting and hosting the various tournaments.

All events were well attended and enjoyed by all who played.

BEN FRANKS:

The Ben Franks places were:

1st: Michael Byrnes & Michael Newman

2nd: Joy Blakey & Irving Blakey

3rd: Barbara Lewis & Alec Smalley

4th: Eddie Thornton-Chan & Graham Currie

These pairs qualify for the Corwen Trophy in June. Thanks Jeff Smith for directing and to everyone involved in making this a very enjoyable day of bridge. The Ben Franks ran at a cost of £7.92

GAZETTE TROPHY:

The Gazette Cup hosted 10 teams with a new entrant this year in the Marple team. Unfortunately, Stretford were unable to raise a team this year. Congratulations to the winners Manchester ‘A’ who will go forward to Garden Cities. Congratulations also to Manchester ‘C’ who won the trophy for the best intermediate team. Thanks goes to Joan Lewis who directed the event so efficiently. The event showed a profit of £49.90.

CANTOR CUP:

The Cantor Cup event was well attended. The event was hosted by MBC and very well directed by Joan Lewis. My thanks to Barbara Lewis who organised the event and to the Cantor family who fund it.

INTERMEDIATE EVENTS:

The start time for intermediate event in April has been put back to 3.00pm as the event clashes with the Manchester Marathon. Also, at the request of Barbara Lewis, the summer event has been put back, 24th June.

NORTHERN COUNTIES IMPROVERS PAIRS:

The regional final will be held 13/14th May. Jeff Morris will finalise details and forward to appropriate qualifiers. Qualifying pairs include top half of Cantor Cup and winning duplicate pairs from MBC Tues night until the final, plus any other recommended qualifiers from other clubs

**4.7 Congress Secretary (Irene Davies)**

Congress took place on the 6th and 7th January 2018 at the Marriot V & A hotel.

* There was a good attendance, but numbers were slightly down on last year. (See chart)
* We made a small loss of £79.
* I have booked the V&A for next year at the same cost (£1700 per day).
* I have asked Neil Morley and Rob Dixon to direct again. Neil Morley has said yes but Rob is not sure.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Congress Numbers 2000-2018** | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | Pairs | Teams | Nov  1 | Nov  2 | Nov  3 | Nov  4 | Total  players | **Profit £** | **Loss**  **£** |
| 2000 | 72 | 35 | 18 | 6 | 16 | 10 | 384 |  | **992** |
| 2001 | 68 | 36 | 18 | 7 | 16 | 12 | 386 |  | **370** |
| 2002 | 71 | 35 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 14 | 372 |  | **533** |
| 2003 | 80 | 43 | 18 | 6 | 18 | 17 | 450 | **665.00** |  |
| 2004 | 66 | 37 | 20 | 6 | 15 | 11 | 384 |  | **472** |
| 2005 | 58 | 29 | 13 | 6 | 18 | 16 | 338 |  | **750** |
| 2006 | 58 | 32 | 13 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 328 |  |  |
| 2007 | 74 | 35 | 21 | 8 | 14 | 13 | 400 |  |  |
| 2008 | 66 | 33 | 15 | 0 | 18 | 9 | 348 |  |  |
| 2009 | 81 | 37 |  |  |  |  | ??? |  |  |
| 2010 \* | 64 | 35 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 316 |  |  |
| 2011 | 72 | 36 | 8 |  | 4 |  | 312 |  |  |
| 2012 | 79 | 36 | 30 |  | 19 |  | 328 |  |  |
| 2013 | 74 | 36 | 13 |  | 12 |  | 342 |  |  |
| 2014 | 74 | 36 | 14 |  | 12 |  | 344 |  | **367** |
| 2015 | 68 | 29 | 14 |  | 20 |  | 320 |  | **685** |
| 2016 | 65 | 29 | 19 |  | 14 |  | 312 |  | **945** |
| 2017 | 73 | 38 | 13 |  | 17 |  | 358 | **279** |  |
| 2018 | 66 | 33 | 15 |  | 14 |  | 322 |  | **79** |

**Issues**

**Venue and timings**

The question has again been raised about a City Centre Venue. David Lloyds at Prestwich or Cheadle Hulme has been raised as an alternative venue. It would certainly be cheaper, as would the parking, but we have had this discussion before and we are committed at present to a City Centre venue with a proper meal break on the Saturday.

The shorter break on the Sunday worked well. Most players seem happy with the 2 hour break on Saturday for a meal. We will continue with the same schedule for next year.

**Number of Boards**

Originally the TD was planning for 26 boards in the first session of Saturday. Because play was going slowly and we were out of sync with the non-experts, meaning there would be no one to do the prize giving, I asked the TD to cut short the session to 24 boards. This was a pragmatic decision and not ideal. We will keep to 26 boards in the first session on Saturday next year and look at another solution for the Non-expert prize giving.

The slowness of play generally created a problem. We will ask TDs to be more vigilant in this respect next year. Also we will have round timers on display to encourage punctual completion of rounds.

**Visible Scores**

Some players were unhappy that scores were visible throughout on both days as this might effect how some would approach their game. We will ask the TD not to show scores.

**Prize Money**

Prize money was cut this year to £1260. This was my decision as I was worrying (unnecessarily

We will revert to the formula used in previous years for Prize money.

**Heating**

There were some problems with the heating on the Saturday. That will be resolved for next year.

**4.8 Match Secretary (Michael Byrne)**

Presidents Cup Manchester Bridge Club - 15th/16th July 2017

The Manchester team was David Barton, John Holland, Robert Myers, Alec Smalley, Tom Slater (who played both days) Royce Alexander, Jeff Morris and John Hassett (who played on Saturday), Leslie Klein, Kath and Alan Nelson, who played on Sunday.

Manchester 76

Yorkshire 71

Lancashire 64

M+C 50

Derbyshire 29

Westmoreland 10

Inter County League Finals – Coventry Bridge Club 9th July 2017

Manchester won the B division winning all 3 head to head matches

Well done to

Eve Lighthill / Ken Hassell

Gillian McMullan / Neil Thomas

Joyce / Robert Jones

Pete Foster / John Roberts

The A team finished below average although that translated to 2nd out of 4. The team was

Alan & Kath Nelson

Bernard & Rhona Goldenfield

Alan Mould(c) & Michael Newman

Alec Smalley & Tom Slater

Derbyshire Match – Manchester Bridge Club 30th July 2017

The Manchester players were:

Team 1: Joan Lewis & Anne Jordan / Barbara Eastabrook & Karen Jones,

Team 2 : Henry Bissell & Josh Clarke / Kevin Higgins & Richard Sinton,

Team 3 : George Leigh & John Moran / Elena & Marcelo Rosenbaum.

After losing by 54 imps in the first half, Manchester almost regained the lead, but ended up losing by 5 imps. The match was “very friendly” and everyone enjoyed it.

Northern Bridge League

A Division:

Manchester won the A division by the deceptively large margin of 23 victory points. Going into the final Saturday Manchester were joint leaders with Lancashire (!!!) but in the final match Manchester not only fielded its Tollemache team but also a full strength Manchester 2 team, which played its part by duffing up the opponents but also losing 19-1 to its A team counterparts.

Manchester 2 pulled themselves up considerably in the final match but couldn’t quite catch Merseyside and Cheshire and came 6th.

Well done to all the players:

Pete Foster,John Roberts,

David Barton,Les Klein

Nicholas Greer,Neil Thomas,

Alec Smalley,Tom Slater

David Barton,Les Klein,

Kath Nelson,Alan Nelson

Gary Hyett,John Holland,

Michael Byrne, Michael Newman

David Barton,Les Klein,

Alan Nelson,Kath Nelson

Gary Hyett,Michael Newman

John Roberts,Pete Foster

Michael Byrne Michael Newman

John Currie Rodney Lighton

John Holland Alan Mould

Alec Smalley Tom Slater

B Division:

Manchester started strongly but had a disastrous second weekend to drop considerably. In the 3rd weekend dark horses Cumbria (somewhat controversially fielding their Tollemache team) scored a big victory and Manchester seemed to be out of contention, but a good victory in the final weekend saw them challenge for the title. They couldn’t quite do enough to win and settled for a respectable 3rd behind Cumbria.

Steve Mattinson,Rod Franks

Adam Wiseberg,David Olliver

Eddie Thornton-Chan,Tony Hodgson

Roger Hopton,Andy Green

Jeanne Bayly,Ron Bayly

Ken Hassell,Adam Wiseberg

Eve Lighthill,Raymond Semp

Howard Stubbings,Dhun Daji

Eve Lighthill,Ken Hassell

Dhun Daji,Howard Stubbings

Rod Franks,Steve Mattinson

Roger Hopton,David Fussell

David Olliver,Howard Kay

Robert Jones,Joyce Jones

Gillian McMullan,Neil Thomas

Herbert Potts,Sylvia Massey

C Division

Manchester were not competitive in this event and finished 6th out of 7 teams. They did however come second in the final match to pull away from bottom placed Cumbria.

Tollemache

Manchester were drawn into yet another so called “group of death” in the qualifying event in Solihull, having to play against London, Surrey, Cambs & Hunts, along with danger teams North East, Leicestershire and Sussex.

In any event they crushed all before them winning (nearly) every match and qualifying with some 34 victory points to spare.

All 4 pairs were at least +40 on the cross imps, with Manchester pairs finishing 1st and 2nd.

Catherine Draper / Andrew Woodcock

Gary Hyett / John Holland

Michael Byrne / Michael Newman

John Hassett / Jeff Morris

In the final Manchester fielded a changed team as one of the team was away travelling but still started as favourites along with Kent and Berks/Bucks. This proved to be an accurate prediction since the 3 teams were in a 3 horse race. Manchester managed a slim 12-8 win over B/B but then lost 15-5 to Kent to drop behind. In the final match Kent lost to Cambridge which gave Manchester a chance to win if they could score 20-0 against bottom placed Dorset, but18-2 was the best they could manage. leaving them bridesmaids by an agonizing 1VP.

**4.9 Green Point Secretary (Rhona Goldenfield)**

Teams July 2017

There were 26 teams and winners were Holland/Whyte Burrows/Lang

A problem arose with the first round boards and the round was deleted from the end result. It was announced that all players who played and play in the teams 2018 will be given a £2 refund

Pairs March 2018

There were 48 pairs and winners were S Woodcock and B Carr.

The event had been full with a waiting list but the weather reared its ugly head and there were several cancellations. Rob Dixon directed and is directing the teams in July.

However, he does not want to direct next year. The venue is booked for the 2 events next year.

We need to book a Director.

16 teams have booked so far for this year’s teams in July.

Once again, I must stress how much work Joan Lewis does in the running of these events and my thanks go to her. Also, Jeff Smith who is always there when needed.

Thanks to Ann Thornton who did a splendid job collecting the money

**4.10 Chairman of Selectors (Alan Mould)**

At the 2017 MCBA AGM, Ken Hassell stood down and Adam Wiseberg was elected unopposed to the Selection Committee (SC), meaning the SC now consisted of Roger Hopton, Steve Mattinson, Alan Mould, Michael Newman, and Adam Wiseberg.

During the last year, the new SC has met on three occasions (June, August, and December). In between time there has been frequent email correspondence.

At the first meeting, Alan Mould was elected chair for the year, non-con; the SC selection policy was updated in line with the wishes of the AGM; and teams for the Northern League rounds 1 and 2 and the Derbyshire match were selected. At the second meeting, teams for the Northern League rounds 3 and 4, and the Tollemache qualifier were selected. At the third meeting, the team for the Tollemache final was selected.

The Derbyshire match had only six pairs available so “selection” was a bit moot. The team narrowly lost, having been well behind at half time.

Selections for the Northern League were even more challenging this year than the SC has ever known it. Firstly, availability was very scarce. For the A1 team, one match clashed with a weekend of the Premier League, taking out pretty much the whole “first” team, and another match clashed with the Seniors Congress. Problems for all teams occurred with lack of availability due to holidays or other commitments. Secondly, the SC had a huge number of people and pairs this year who said they were available, but then became unavailable when picked, even though availability was requested only 10 days previously. This caused the SC and the match secretary massive problems with re-arrangements of the teams and players. For example, in match 1, of the 16 pairs originally selected, only 7 actually played in the match. In several of the matches, it looked seriously as if we would not be able to field one or more teams until the very last minute. The SC as a whole would like to thank several of its members for agreeing to play in matches which they did not think they should and at considerable inconvenience to themselves, in order to ensure we could field teams. Without this, and the assistance of the match secretary in keeping the SC informed of availability (or lack of it), we would have defaulted several matches.

For the forthcoming year, the Northern League has agreed for Manchester to have a second team in the C division, meaning 5 teams in all (A1, A2, B. C1, C2). This will mean selecting 20 pairs plus reserves for every match. This will be challenging for the SC and impossible if players availability changes at short notice.

Further on the Northern League, the SC was mindful of the wishes of the AGM to ensure that the A1, B, and particularly the C team, were suitably competitive in the division. The current SC took the view that this was sacrosanct and that therefore, if through lack of availability, a team had to be compromised in terms of quality, then that team would be the A2 team. Match 4 of the Northern League showed that if we have full availability Manchester can put out a competitive A2 team, but that was the only match with such availability. The MCBA Council wished the matter of the selection policy around the A2 team (and the newly constituted C2 team) to be put back to the AGM. There is a paper on this under the relevant item, so I will say no more about it here.

It is interesting to note that despite this updated policy the results of the Northern League were actually worse than last year:

• The A1 team won the division by what looked a comfortable margin, but was in fact tied going into the final weekend.

• The A2 team finished bottom of the division, as it has done every year.

• The B team, which last year won the division and won the national final, struggled all year, and started the final match nearly 50 VPs behind Cumbria. A huge last match saw them rise to third place, 9 VPs behind Cumbria.

• Despite the SC’s best efforts, and the teams being of a decent standard for that division, the C team for whatever reasons, again struggled all year and did no better than under the previous policy. The team finished 6th out of 7.

In the Tollemache qualifier, Manchester had been drawn in far and away the strongest group, but had won the group in style, leading from post to post. The SC picked the same team for the final as in the qualifier with Ollie Burgess replacing Gary Hyett (who was away during the final) as a partner for John Holland. The SC also determined that a NPC was appropriate for this final (one was not selected for the qualifier). The team was highly competitive in the final, being first or second throughout and heartbreakingly finished second to Kent by 1 VP. All four pairs were positive on the XImps.

Given the variability of reports from captains on the various matches, the SC decided it would like a pro-forma for captains to complete relating to all County matches. This was designed by the chair and amended by the SC. The first use of the pro-forma was at the Tollemache final, and the SC found the information useful.

The SC also discussed the idea raised at the November Council meeting that there should be a single “Selection Tsar” for the Tollemache. The SC was against this proposal and saw no case for it. Indeed, the SC asked that if there was a “Tsar” for the Tollemache, then why not one for the Derbyshire match, or the Northern League (one for each division)?

Steve Mattinson, after two years on the committee, has decided to step down. The SC thanks Steve for his work over the last two years.

**4.11 Publicity Officer (Jeff Morris)**

No report submitted to date

**4.12 EBU Shareholders (Rodney Lighton, Jeff Morris, Michael Newman)**

No report submitted to date

**4.13 Schools, Youth & Teachers Liaison (Jeff Morris)**

No report submitted to date

**4.14 Webmaster (Rodney Lighton**

The MCBA website continues to receive around 55-60 visitors per day. Thanks to those who sent reports of events and to those who contributed to the Deal of the Week feature. Thanks also to John Holland for checking Deal of the Week articles.