

Chair's Newsletter 2024

This will be my last newsletter as I am standing down as Chair at the AGM this month. Time for someone else to have a go.

I hope you are all enjoying the better weather and lighter nights. It's a lot more pleasant to go to your local bridge club when it's not cold and rainy.

What has happened since my last newsletter?

The County won the prestigious **Tollemache Trophy** for the second time in a row. We are blessed with more than our fair share of expert players, but not all our internationals could play and two Tollemache rookies made up our team and coped well.

14 pairs played in the **Cantor Cup** for bridge beginners and some of those were very new to bridge. So well done to all those who played. Your first competition is always a bit scary but exciting too.

The **Green Point Pairs** event for more experienced players went well with 38 pairs taking part.

The **League and Cup** are coming to a conclusion. Under the handicap system Inverted Minors won the Cup and Ashton United won the Plate. Well done to them. The League winners are yet to be decided.

What is coming up?

There are lots of bridge events to look forward to.

The County is organising a short **Face-to-Face Summer League**. Probably just 4 matches for each team over the Summer months. Whether you are new to bridge, just play at the club or are an international you will be welcomed. It will be good to see some players who we haven't seen face to face since before COVID.

(It's also time to think about getting your team organised for the League and Cup starting in September.)

On 16th June our C team, made up of regular club players, will play in the **National League finals** after winning the Northern Bridge League C division. Good luck to them.

Manchester County teams are involved in lots of competitions over the year, both F2F and on line. We are looking for new people to represent the County at all levels. Please consider putting your name forward when we email everybody in the near future.

On 28th July we have the **Manchester Green Point event** for experienced players. If you look on the Manchester County website you can see the details of these and lots of other events you could enter in the North of England.

To register for events go to <https://www.bridgewebs.com/manchesterevents/>

To see other local events go to <http://www.manchesterbridge.org.uk/>

The Festival Of Bridge

The Festival is in September but plans are already afoot for Manchester's involvement in the Festival. There is a Twin Town Tournament involving clubs in

Manchester's twin towns in France. Anyone can play. Sorry, no we are not paying for you to go to a French bridge club (that would be nice!) - It's all online. Also there is going to be a bridge table or two set up in the Trafford Centre to advertise bridge and Cancer Research. That is not to mention all events which individual clubs are organising. It looks like it's going to be great fun. Espen Gisvold is the organiser in Manchester for the festival so get in touch with him for any ideas you have or events you are organising. espen.gisvold@gmail.com

The County's AGM

This takes place on Thursday 30th May at 7.30pm at Bramhall Village Club. We will have refreshments and an award ceremony for the league and cup winners. It would be lovely to see you there.

There are people standing down as well as me this year so there are several jobs to fill. At the moment most of the County's decision makers are expert players whereas most of the members are regular club players. We need more club players in the leadership of the County. I know it's difficult because many of you are busy enough keeping your own club running and healthy. But we do need you.

Enthusiasm is what we are looking for. Please contact me at irenedavies14@gmail.com if you want to be involved.

Hope to see you soon at the bridge table.

Cheers

Irene Davies (Chair MCBA)