Tournament Secretary Report 2023-2024

Ben Franks

This was held on Sunday December 3rd at Manchester Bridge Club. 21 pairs took part, with two drop out pairs on the day. The event was run by Nicholas Greer, and there was a lot of support from the host club, many of whose members took part. I did a lot of work contacting people with “save the date” emails and this increased entries from 12 pairs to 21.

Winners were Eddie Thornton-Chan and Tony Hodgson with a fantastic score of 65.29%. The other qualifiers for the Corwen Trophy were Rhona Goldenfield/Kath Nelson, Alan Mould/John Holland and Rodney Lighton/Tom Dessain

Cantor Cup

This was run by Susan Triggs and I was very grateful that she took this on. The event attracted 14 pairs, which was a good attendance in the context of having to find people that were willing to play but satisfied the entry requirements (of being beginners or new to competitions).

Gazette Trophy

This was held on Sunday 4th February at Manchester Bridge Club following the unavailability of Altrincham bridge club. 8 teams of 8 competed (64 players in total) but only 3 clubs were represented out of the 12 we have in Manchester which is a great shame.

The winners were Bramhall and Cheadle Bridge Centre A who won by nearly a match, special shout goes to Manchester C that came joint 3rd, this featured a number of long standing members of our association as well as some less experienced members of the club, which was heartening to see.

(BCBC A team went on to scrape through the Garden Cities regional qualifier in May on a split tie, they will play in the final on Saturday 1st June.

I am stepping down as Tournament Secretary this year. Although I enjoy running and contributing to the competitions, I am not normally able to attend them. This year I was away playing bridge in America during the Ben Franks, playing in trials during the Gazette Trophy, and playing in the Lederer during the Cantor Cup (all of which is work). I don’t think this is a long term sustainable plan so I must reluctantly let someone else take over.