

WBCC Tournament Secretary's report for AGM March 2019



**Watford
and
Bushey
Bridge
Club**

Master Points (MPs) from Jan-Dec 2018

The club has no award or trophy for the highest MP earner, but we track this on our website. Trupti Shah won with 1379 MPs in eligible sessions, playing just 45 times for an average of > 30 per session, just ahead of Tony Osborne who had played 77 times – only 1 less than Donald Reid who was the most frequent player with 78 sessions. After the first two months of the 2019 competition year, the early leaders are David Eddleston and Maureen Ashman. Nick Fergusson won the most MPs (852) during the Thursday Social Duplicate sessions just ahead of Geoff Seal. At the county level 6 of the top seven spots for MPs accumulated during the year were held by Watford players – Derek & Celia Oram, Paul & Fiona Littlewood, Mike Rawlins and Naomi Gibbs.

Men's and Ladies Pairs (Jan – Dec 2018) (Peter Emery Cup and Marjorie Forbes-Simpson Cup)

A minimum of 10 eligible sessions had to be played in these competitions on Tues or Friday evenings. 18 Mens' Pairs played enough times to qualify with Nigel Walsh and Chris Cooke retaining their leading position with an avg 61.74% (last year 63.85%) across their best ten sessions. 12 Ladies Pairs hit the minimum threshold : Barbara Wills and Jane Rogers were the leading pair with 53.45%, just a fraction ahead of Natalie Crampton and Rosalind Campbell who made a late run for the top spot in the final sessions of the year.

Individual Competition (Jan-Dec 2018) (David Earle Cup)

For those playing with a minimum of at least 10 different partners (members) in eligible sessions on Tues or Friday evenings. The best 10 results with different partners counted. Just 14 members had at least 10 different partners in the year (there were 30 members with at least 8 partners in the previous year under the old rules). Tony Osborne, the runner-up in 2017, took top spot this year with 21 partners – averaging 63.47% with the best ten of those – just ahead of David Arrighi. The leading Intermediate player in this competition was Joe Coulson (3rd place) and the leading Cadet was Jim Blair (5th), winning the Donald Reid Cup. John Lambe won the Thursday Individual by a clear margin with 56.77%.

Club Pairs Championship 2018, Bobby Brown Award and Thursday Pairs

Held over four separate dates, with the best three out of 4 scores qualifying. 13 pairs played in the event at least three times and so qualified, with the winners being Stephen Lipman and Steve Sheldon averaging > 59%, well ahead of Tony Osborne and Kiku Lester. These two pairs qualify to represent the club in the HBA Champions Cup this year. The Bobby Brown award is given to the highest pair below the rank of Regional Master which was Natalie Crampton and Ros Campbell (6th place). The Thursday Pairs was won by Sheila Oxenham & John Hattersly with an average of 64% just ahead of Geoff Seal & Nic Fergusson on 63.98%.

Mixed Pairs Championship Sep 2018

This was won by Stephen Lipman & Neeta Bavishi with 67.05%.

Grant Trophy 2018

This trophy is awarded to the pair with the highest % (>70%) in an eligible duplicate session during the year. Eight pairs achieved the 70% mark (compared to 6 in the previous year), with Amanda Hirons and John Barnes' 74.2% on 11th May proving to be the high point for the year. There have been no >70% scores in 2019 so far.

Club Teams Championship May 2018 (Bindloss Cup)

The Bindloss Cup was won by David Arrighi, Andy Fenn, Roger Edmonds and David Stimson. The Club Teams championship started this year with 17 teams in May, of which the top 4 qualified for an all play all final in June.

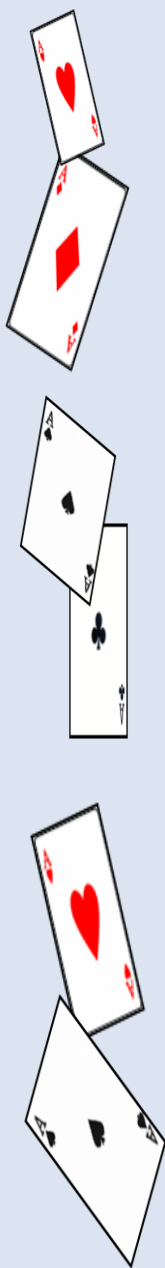
Ref HBA competitions held since last year's club AGM

HBA Cadet Teams Final – the strength of the club's development program was shown when we supplied 5 of the 12 teams in the county's cadet teams event recently. Our top team was in 4th place, but this bodes well for the future.

HBA Championship Pairs – this was held at WBBC for the first time : in the final WBBC will be represented by several pairs, Tom Dessain/Tugrul Kaban, David Arrighi/Andy Fenn, Celia & Derek Oram, David Eddleston/Susan Mount.

HBA Rose Bowl: a Teams event, with 8 teams – a Watford team was third : Richard Banbury, Jeff Green, Mike Rawlins and Naomi Gibbs.

HBA Club Winners Cup – Watford was represented by two pairs: David Arrighi/Andy Fenn finished third and Roger Forster/Denis King were mid-field in a field of 18 pairs.



Ref HBA competitions held since last year's club AGM - continued

HBA Mixed Pairs – was won by a Watford pairing, Tony Osborne and Kiku Lester and in 2nd place Mike Rawlins and Naomi Gibbs who also regularly play at the club.

HBA Eccles Cup – Watford was represented by two teams each of 4 pairs, in a field of 9 teams overall. We finished 4th and 6th.

HBA Des Flockhart – Teams of 8 – Watford submitted 2 of the 7 teams taking part in this event, and one team finished second.

Watford Quarterly Swiss Pairs

The biggest innovation in the competition calendar for 2018/9 is the introduction of a quarterly Swiss Pairs playing 5x5 Board rounds. It has proved a very popular event and pre entry is required to guarantee a table. Monetary prizes are given to:

- Highest scoring partnership rating with NGS above Queen
- Highest scoring partnership rating with NGS between 10 and Queen, and
- Highest scoring partnership rating with NGS 9 or below

The Winter Swiss Pairs was held end of Jan and nearly got snowed off. Winners in the three categories were:

- Roger Forster and Jim Niblett with 79VP
- Tony Gross & Peter Tischler jointly with Tom Murray & Stephen Lipman
- Margaret L'estrage & Brian Capel

The next event is April 16th so please enter on line either on the club menu or through the link on the homw page.

National Inter Club Knock Out (NICKO)

This year the club is represented by 3 teams, up from 1 team last year. The C Team remains in the Cup and the A team in the Plate competition. Team A (King, Banbury, Fawcett, Niblett) lost to New Amersham in Rd 1, and went into the Plate competition, where they beat Hemel Hestead in the 1st round and now have a bye in round 2. Team B (Hudson, Kaltz, Levy, Lewy) beat Woodberry in Rd 1 but lost to Welwyn GC in Round 2. Team C (Cook, Walsh, Blaire, Osborne) won their first match against New Amersham, and had a bye in second round and will play Young Chelsea in the next round of the cup.

Club Evenings – NGS and Session details

The club's highest rated NGS events were all teams events: the Bindloss cup qualifier (55), Humble Cup qualifier (56) and Bindloss Cup final (60). Otherwise the club's usual pairs and teams sessions all have an average NGS of 52 to 54. The largest entry on a Tuesday duplicate was 20 tables, 14.5 on a Thursday and 10.5 on a Friday evening. To take the pressure off our volunteer directors, the club now employs a non-playing director three Tuesdays out of four every month. Tuesday attendance has averaged 14 tables over the last 12 months, although since Feb 2019 we have split the Tuesday session into a main and a social duplicate. The average NGS for the main Tuesday duplicate has now increased to 55 as a result. (By comparison in 2017, Tuesday attendance averaged 17 tables with a high of 22½.)

<u>Pairs</u>	Sessions	Avg players	Avg Tbles	High NGS	Low NGS
Friday	38	30.5	7.6	54.84	49.98
Thurs	46	41.4	10.3	46.39	42.95
Tues	46	59.5	14.9	55.13	52.31
<u>Swiss Pairs</u>	4	80	20.0	54.34	53.12
<u>Teams</u>	14	38	9.5	59.74	51.43

Special thanks

To all those who help run things at the club – for the lessons, supervised play and duplicate sessions – both daytime and evening. Especially – on my part – to those who help direct and score.

Richard Banbury

WBBC Competitions Secretary and Chief TD.



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