

## **Welcome to new members of Berks & Bucks Contract Bridge Association (BBCBA)**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 **all members of affiliated clubs** will automatically become members of BBCBA and the English Bridge Union (EBU). Previously individuals had to elect to join and paid a subscription. Now there will be a big increase in the membership of BBCBA and the subscription is replaced by a 'Pay-to-play' system whereby 35 pence/player is paid for each duplicate session at your club, of which 29p goes to the EBU and 6p to BBCBA.

On behalf of the committee of BBCBA we hope that you will enjoy your membership and feel it is worthwhile. We will be issuing you with our annual Members Handbook in the summer but meanwhile this is the front page of last year's which describes what we try to do

### **What is Berks & Bucks Contract Bridge Association (BBCBA) and why do we exist?**

BBCBA is a non-profit making organisation that 'belongs' to you, its members

#### **Our Objectives are:**

- To promote and encourage the playing of bridge at all levels within Berks & Bucks
- To support and assist B&BCBA clubs with any problems or issues they may have

#### **We aim to meet these objectives by:**

- Organising county-wide competitions at a wide range of levels – student, improver, 'friendly', inter-club, and 'county' right up to the two County Championship events, the winners qualifying to represent BBCBA in National finals – **we are proud to relate that both Pairs and Teams finals in 2009 were won by BBCBA!**
- Organising meetings for club representatives to discuss issues such as the EBU proposals for Universal Membership (Pay-to-Play)
- Supporting young players, eg to attend the annual coaching sessions at Loughborough
- Providing information about bridge clubs and teachers
- Organising an annual 24 pairs a side Berks v Bucks match at three levels – club, county and top level
- Financing BBCBA teams in National competitions – as well as the two successes referred to above **our team in the Tollemache, the EBU's major inter-county competition, qualified for the final and came 4<sup>th</sup> overall [we are proud to add that a few months ago our County Team did even better, winning a medal for 3<sup>d</sup> place in the final]**
- Representing BBCBA interests at EBU meetings, including voting on various issues

Our philosophy has three main aspects:-

- i) Ordinary county competitions should break-even
- ii) Surpluses on League of 8, League of 4, County Teams and Pairs go towards the entry fees of the winners representing BBCBA in the relevant national competition
- iii) Pay-to-play income to cover overheads, the annual Berks v Bucks match and the BBCBA team in the inter-county competition (the Tollemache).