

## **What is happening to the BBL ?**

You may have heard that the British Bridge League will cease to exist after 31 December 1999, with its responsibilities regarding International Competitions - i.e. the European and World Championships - being taken over by the three "new" Bridge Federations of England, Scotland and Wales.

This exciting development means that for most international events there will be three teams competing instead of just one British Team.

So what happens to the Simultaneous Pairs ? The answer to that is simple - they will carry on exactly as they do at present. So please support them - the funds raised will be distributed among the three new Federations to help support the National Teams.

As far as the rest of the BBL events are concerned, it has been decided that the various Congresses should be run by the country in which they are held - so England will take over the two "Buxton" Congresses (both of which have moved away from Buxton as it happens), and the Isle of Man Congress; Wales will take on the Llangollen Swiss Teams and Scotland the two Peebles Congress. This will all take effect from January 2000.

The Green Point Joint Ventures in August will also go to the Home Unions in which they are held, and the EBU will take over the organisation of the Portland Pairs.

The Gold Cup, which is the British Teams Championship, will remain as an overall event, organised by a small Committee with members from each of the new Bridge Federations and, of course, the Home International Series will be organised as an overall event.

More information will become available over the next few months as we progress towards devolution, but rest assured that there will still be plenty of enjoyable bridge competitions for you to play in.

Please note that teams wishing to apply to play in the Orbis World Transnational Teams Championship in Bermuda should contact Anna Gudge. Teams and Pairs interested in competing in the European Mixed Championships to be held in Bellaria, Italy in March 2000 should contact their Home Unions.