

## Chairman's Report

EWBA AGM 28<sup>TH</sup> April 2019

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I trust that you've all enjoyed the buffet lunch provided by Helen, Nalini, Steve and Teresa, and my apologies if I've missed anyone.

We'll try to keep this meeting as short as possible so that we can get back to the bridge. But this is the occasion where I thank all our Committee members for their help during the year. I'll start with our Secretary, Adrian Trickey-only been in the position for 2 years, but has astonished us all with the work that he puts in. A very efficient and capable worker, we are sad that he is calling it a day as he tries to cut down on his many commitments. We shall miss you, Adrian. If those willing to take over would form a queue just here, please....

Treasurer Simon is another tireless worker, of 8 years standing, somehow fitting in all that this job requires into a very heavy schedule running his own business. He would be grateful if someone else, not necessarily an accountant, would like to take over at some time in the next year.

Our Tournament Organiser, Helen, seems to accomplish more every year, somehow taking in her stride local, Area events and National heats and qualifiers, and this year is her first WBU AGM in June, at Whitchurch Rugby Club. She will also be playing in this event as part of the Spickett team. I have no idea where she gets the energy from, but we are all so grateful to her.

Posters and event flyers are all carefully designed by Mieke, who also organises the printing thereof. This takes up a lot of time, but she has also taken over the East Wales website recently, a position which seems to have more responsibilities every year. If club secretaries could send her items relevant to EWBA, such as Claret Jug winners, she'd be happy to post them. Mieke is also part of our Spickett team.

Last year, we smuggled Sarah Amos into the EWBA fold when the North weren't looking. She was our nomination for WBU President, a job that she has now held for 11 months, and an extremely good job she is doing too. She, too, will be part of our Spickett team in June- she's won it for the last two years playing for the North. She is a very useful member of our committee, and for those of you that don't know, she's one of the top bridge directors in England as well as Wales.

Steve Webb continues to run the three East Wales Bridge Leagues and also sorts out the teams for Divisions A and B of the Western League. Richard Welsford does the C Division. I believe almost 60 different players represented East Wales in this year's competition. Well done to all-if you're not yet a member of a team, get one ready for the new season in the Autumn. Steve will give you all the help you need-just ask!!

Most of our boards for congress-type events are duplimated by our friends at Monmouth Bridge Club; many thanks to them.

Treasurer and Finance reports to follow. But first I should like to thank everyone else who has assisted in any small way towards the running of our committee. Each club is entitled to send a representative to our meetings-about 4 a year; we could always do with more help. This year, our President's Cup team for the WBU AGM consists of players from Cardiff and Gwent. For the last two years, we've asked two other clubs to choose teams which we've send away, paying transport and accommodation. Both clubs were delighted to be asked, and said that they would support future East Wales events. In general, this has not happened, and I am more hurt than I care to admit. Only joking, but it is always good to see new faces here.

At the WBU AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June, East Wales will be defending the Perry Shield; we wish them luck, and also our Spickett and President's Cup teams.

Thank you for listening, I hope you all enjoy the day.

Geoff Evans

28<sup>th</sup> April 2019