

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1st SEPTEMBER 2014
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During the past year we have welcomed 19 new members and our membership presently stands at 284. However, primarily due to our age profile, there has been a reduction in members attending. This issue will be mentioned further by our treasurer when he submits his report on our finances. In the meantime if you know of anyone who has recently stopped attending we would ask that you encourage them to return to the fold.

To date we have been unable to obtain someone to front a new series of beginners' lessons which normally start in September but we live in hope that someone may come forward and we may be able to start next January.

In an effort to improve attendance at our Wednesday Gentle Duplicate, which caters for those wishing to play at a gentler pace with help and guidance, these sessions will now start earlier at 7.15 and finish at 10.00. My thanks to John Wooton, Mike Greatbatch, Kay Adamson, Duncan and Anne-Marie Rennie, John Fay and all other volunteers for supervising these sessions and giving their time so freely.

This time last year we were preparing for our 30th Anniversary celebrations at the St Georges Hotel in Llandudno. A great deal of hard work went into the organisation of this event and I am pleased to report the weekend was a great success.

The format of the Merseyside Cup was changed last year into an inter club competition and was held at Deva Bridge Club, Chester. Two teams from each of the County's affiliated clubs were eligible to play. I am delighted to report that the two teams from our club finished 1st and 2nd. Our congratulations to the winners: - Pat Arthur, Stephanie Howard, Pauline Norman and

John Fay. This year the event will be held here on 2nd November and it is suggested we invite last year's winners to defend their title. If anyone else wishes to organise a further team please let me know.

Our Annual Calendar of special events has recently been distributed and my thanks to Mike Greatbatch for also posting it on our website. It is disappointing that, due to lack of support, we have decided not to hold the Merseyside & Deeside Cup and our Annual Charity Pairs. We were however able to send a donation following a raffle and the sale of Brenda's cards and George's books. I do hope that as many of you that are able will play in the following two events which are coming up shortly: - Anniversary Pairs on Sunday 14th September @ 1.00 pm and Ladies v Mens teams on Tuesday 11th November with a prompt 7.00 pm start. This latter event has always been a very enjoyable evening. We need six teams of four for each side so please enter your names on the list on our notice board if you wish to play.

Last year the reintroduction of travellers was aired as some members were unable to see the results on the bridge mates. We straight away extended the time that the result was posted and a committee member was given the job of asking members their opinions. The result was that we stay without the travellers being reinstated.

I would now like to say a big thank you to all the members that make our club run so smoothly. Our secretary John and all members of the General and Disciplinary Committees, directors, key holders, card dealers, standbys and those who purchase our stationery and bar supplies. Special thanks to Peter who is now retiring from his post as our treasurer.

This is the end of my report. Thank you.

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