

President's Newspaper

Number 1

Communication is the key in any organisation, so I intend sending one page a month to keep everyone up to date. This will not replace Laura's splendid newsletter. It would help greatly if you all signed up to Mailchimp (WBUwebsite /Contacts/WBU mailing list), otherwise I will attempt to contact you individually. I have quite radical ideas and some items will be unpopular – but hopefully that will keep you reading 😊

The Llandudno Congress was a super weekend and you really should consider it for next year. The standard was high as it attracted players from over the border, but obviously numbers were down as people are still wary of F2F. It must be one of the best locations for our congresses, with the posh Venue Cymru playing area, beautiful beaches and plenty of accommodation. What's not to like?

We were delighted to try out an App called Brian, now changed to ibescore which Sarah Amos introduced. As you can imagine there was grumbling to begin with, but by the end we were all loving it - like having deep finesse/BBO on hand. Just one smart phone or tablet was required at each table and if clubs want to use it, then there is no need for a TD to be present as it can be done remotely. Available free on Google play and the App store, details at: [Electronic Bridge Game / Bridge Score Game App at IBEScore](#)

The Spickett (women), Perry(open) and President's cup (club) created another great weekend. This is such a friendly event normally and is our only inter area competition. It often attracts players who do not get into the Camrose or Lady Milne teams and can be used to introduce new players at that level. Unbelievably, there was no President's cup – something I will definitely rectify by next year, as it is the perfect opportunity for any club to send a team of social players, for whom it may be their first competition against similar teams. I may even get two teams from each area along! Covid struck, so various teams were depleted and sadly the Spickett West had to withdraw. A hybrid event would have worked (i.e. one team online and everyone else present in the room) but various players had never played online so this was not possible. Warning! We may have to get used to this hybrid idea, as it could be used in clubs and competitions.

In 30 years we may have no one to play against (if we are still here), so we have GOT to encourage the younger generation. Please read my other missive about the University Freshers' Fairs and a schools initiative. It won't work without lots of help from you all and we don't have much time before September to get on with it.

My first few weeks have been....interesting. I have discovered that I dislike our constitutions and competition journal – all of which need updating and writing in plain English (Laura's phone will be buzzing). There are no minutes for the L&E committee. We have a Council, as well as the MC, selectors and L&E and I have no idea who is on it or why, so that should go...

You have no idea how hard a few people work and the MC is a very happy bunch, who give a great deal to the organisation, so try not to complain too much. Ceri, Tony and Steve all earn everything they get ten times over. We rely on volunteers (I'm one haha), but need more. Finally huge thanks to Jean Hand and Fiona Noyce who have handed over their jobs to Simon Gottschalk and Jean Cufley (I wouldn't do either for love nor money). Nuff for now so watch this space...

MC = Management committee, L&E = Laws and Ethics