

## SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY 2026

1 It was a great shock to us all when the Bridge Club was obliged to find alternative, temporary accommodation in January after the Parish Fire Safety Report meant immediate closure of the club premises.

We are very grateful to Balmoral Golf Club for making accommodation available to us on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and later on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings.

The Parish Centre has been the home of the Monday evening Beginners bridge since January. The Quaker Centre on Marlborough Park also provided a home to the Tuesday night bridge until Balmoral reopened in March.

A huge vote of thanks is due to Jim McGilly for all his sterling work in ensuring that our bridge sessions run so smoothly. Since January Jim (and Rosaleen) have prepared 5 sets of boards each week, and Jim also makes sure that the boards, bridgemates and computer are at the right venue 4 days a week! No mean feat!

He instigated and continues to run the Monday night beginners bridge. This has attracted a considerable number of new members to the club and we hope that they will all move on to play in the club bridge competitions.

2 Membership has remained steady with currently around 245 members.

### 3 Club Competitions

The Mon Ryan Handicap Competition was played over 5 rounds throughout the year, with the best individual 3 scores being counted. (Winners to be announced shortly!) It was very encouraging to see that 70 people played in 1 or more rounds.

Congratulations to Christine Stewart and Mary Flynn, winners of the Club Pairs Competition. There was however a disappointing entry for this, our premier competition, with only 19 pairs taking part.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the Anne Shannon Team Tournament in the Spring, but hopefully we will be able to run this popular competition next year.

Many thanks to Michael Cassidy, who has taken on the unenviable task of Handicap Tournament Organiser!! Under his leadership and guidance the Mon Ryan Competitions continue to run without any hitches.

4The NIBU Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 27 June at 2.00pm in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Shaws Bridge. The main item of business will be the proposed amalgamation of the NIBU with the CBAI to form a new body Bridge Ireland. All the details relating to this proposal are on the club website.

Derryvolgie is entitled to send 8 delegates to this meeting. Please let me know if you wish to be named as a club delegate.

(Only delegates may vote at the meeting.)

5 Finally, many thanks to all those members who ensure that our competitions run smoothly each week. We would welcome help from any other members to share the work load!