

Chairman's Report 2024/25

This is my 5th year as Chairman and we again have had a relatively successful season as a County.

As Alan has pointed out in his report, clubs are now playing more face-to-face bridge. However the committee has decided to still keep running higher level HBA competitions mostly online (apart from the Swiss Pairs), as this is more convenient for most players

Our tournament schedule now includes F2F and online sessions for less experienced players and we would encourage your eligible players to take part as these are very friendly and so an excellent introduction to competitive Bridge.

For the first time we held a 7 High Pairs F2F competition in a club and this proved to be a real success with 33 pairs taking part and everyone enjoying the experience. I am very grateful to Barnet U3A, in consultation with Alan Woof + Gary Conrad, for running this and would be very pleased to hear from any other club who wishes to run a similar HBA competition.

On a wider note, I would like to congratulate our County teams who continue to do well in the Eastern Counties league with both the B and C teams winning their divisions.

Going forward I believe one of the most important roles of the HBA is to provide support to our clubs. Many are already doing a brilliant job in providing extensive teaching and playing programs. However some clubs are only just developing so please contact us if you need any help. With regard to this I would particularly draw your attention to the EBU teaching seminars that are being run by Mary Cousins, who is the new EBU County and Membership Development Officer.

Finally I would like to say how grateful I am for the tremendous support I am getting from the committee and the clubs, which makes my job so much easier.

Paul Littlewood