

CHAIR'S REPORT 2024

It has been a somewhat turbulent year in the Bridge world in general with contradictory forces pulling the EBU in different directions. I am glad to say that at the time of writing things seem to have calmed down considerably and that the EBU is in good hands.

As far as events in London are concerned, I am sad to report that there are very few successes to highlight and perhaps the less said the better. Our two great - shall I say, flagship – competitions, CAFÉ BRIDGE, continue to thrive and be very popular. The April running in The Tonsleys raised £700 for our Charity and the Chiswick event (just finished) raised just over £1,700. Interest in County events continues to wane. The London Teams of 4 attracted only 4 teams and there was not enough interest to run a Championship Pairs at all this year. But the Mixed Pairs, No Fear Pairs and Garden Cities heats are still ongoing and the London Congress had a slight increase in overall entries. The London Tollemache team qualified for the final.

The Lederer is a continuing success with huge thanks to Kath Stynes and our sponsor, Andrew Black.

There are achievements worth noting:

The 2023 Gold Cup was won by Janet de Botton's team with 5 London Members: Janet de Botton, Artur Malinowski, Ben Handley-Pritchard, Tom Townsend and Thor Erik Hoftaniska.

The 2023 Crockford's Cup was won by Tim Leslie's team also with 5 London Members: Tim Leslie, Mike Bell, Sarah Bell, Stefano Tommasini and Ben Norton.

The 2023 Premier League Division 1 was won by team Black with 2 London Members: Andrew Black and David Gold.

In the last twelve months we have lost some notable names:

Peter Donovan, Bridge columnist for the Daily Mail for nearly 60 years, died in November 2023.

Peter Burrows has also left us, a former County Chairman in the 1980's, as has

Willie Coyle, a London member with an illustrious playing career. He mainly played for Scotland but also represented Great Britain before devolution and latterly England.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my very hard-working Committee. They all give their time and energy without complaint for the good of the game and I am deeply indebted to all of them for their cheerful advice and support.

We are still desperately looking for someone to be our County Secretary; anyone interested, please get in touch.

James Smith

September 17th 2024

