

EDITORIAL

Dear MCBA affiliated bridge player. As the new Publicity Secretary, I'm planing to produce a newsletter every 2-3 months. In the newsletter I will report on events that have been organised by the county, events where the county participates and special events organised by the clubs which merit reporting. As and when players from the county have been involved in national or international events that will of course also be reported.

To be able to do this, I rely on input from you - the reader. I might have big ears and large eyes, but they cannot manage to capture the huge amount of activity in and around the county and it's affiliated clubs. For this I need you to get in touch and provide information.

If you have a (bridge) story that you think other members could enjoy or learn from, please get in touch. It is important that we all keep in mind that bridge - how ever seriously we take it - in club events, county events national or international events has to be fun!

This newsletter will be a joint effort amongst all the county's officers. They will all contribute as and when they are involved with an event to be reported on or an event that needs to be promoted.

Espen Gisvold

AGM

Extract from Royce Alexander's (unpublished) memoirs:

"With the AGM due to start at 7:30pm, the room was filling up nicely at 7pm. By 7.20, we still had only 17 present. Joy Blakey was ill, so she and Irving couldn't come. Then Rhona and Bill Bentley arrived making 19. But nobody else. And the quorum is 20. I asked Alec if he knew anyone nearby who might come and he made phone calls without success. It was gone 7.30, so Chair Irene said we'd have an informal chat rather than the formal AGM and asked me to start on the League and F2F/Online.

About 30 seconds into my talk, someone said they'd spotted Gary Hyett approaching!! So I stopped and Gary came up to the room to widespread applause if not a standing ovation!!!

The AGM was quorate!! 20 people had turned up, and the AGM went ahead.

But Raymond had to leave prematurely, so we were down to 19 people and inquorate again, so subsequent votes were only "indicative" and the

first Meeting of the Executive has to make the decisions."



Irene Davis stood down after having served as Chair since 2015. We are all grateful for her immense contribution. Unfortunately, no-one stepped up to the plate,

so we are without a Chair. Even though we did not manage to get a new chair, the rudder will be held collectively by the executive that was elected. Together they will steer the ship and keep the other officers in line.

The new officers are:

Executive

Vice-chair:	Alec Smalley
Secretary:	Alan Mould
Treasurer:	Joy Blakey
Membership Secretary:	Gordon Bickley
League Secretary:	Royce Alexander
Green Point Secretary:	Rhona Goldenfield
Tournament Secretary:	Ann Thornton
Congress Secretary:	Barbara Lewis
Chair of Selectors:	TBD
Match Secretary:	Royce Alexander

Other Officers

Higson Cup secretary:	Paul Beckwith
Goldstone Secretary:	Roger Hopton
EBU Shareholders:	Alec Smalley Jeff Morris Alan Mould
Schools, Youth and Teachers Liaison Officer:	Raymond Semp
Webmasters:	Rodney Lighton Espen Gisvold
Accounts Preparer:	Howard Stubbings
Selection Committee:	Roger Hopton Catherine Draper Rob Ferrari Philip Taylor Alec Smalley Royce Alexander
Conduct Committee:	Irene Davies Gordon Bickley Royce Alexander

Jeff Morris
Mike Wood
Alec Smalley
Michael Byrne
Kevin Comrie
Alan Mould

Disciplinary Committee:

Joy Blakey
Rodney Lighton
John Holland
Espen Gisvold

Publicity Secretary:

Espen Gisvold

has been played this week. You can follow the results [HERE](#).

NORTHERN BRIDGE LEAGUE

The 2024/25 Season of Northern Bridge League starts with the first match to be played 13th July and the second 17th August. Players eligible for selection have been contacted and the selectors will in the coming days and weeks select the teams. We wish them the best of luck, and hope to report from the matches in the next newsletter. We might even get a hand or a story from the event to report?

BEN BEEVER MEMORIAL TROPHY

Sunday July 7th at 2pm at The Manchester Bridge Club Ben Beaver Memorial Trophy Pairs will be played. All details [HERE](#). You can register for this event [HERE](#).

MANCHESTER LEAGUE

The Manchester league had 4 divisions in the 23/24 season and all divisions have now finished all their matches. All match details can be found [HERE](#).

1st division was won by **The Griffins** (Catherine Draper, John Hassett, Jeff Morris, Andrew Woodcock) with **Inverted Minors** (David Barton, Irving Blakey, Joy Blakey, Rhona Goldenfield, Leslie Klein, Jeffrey Smith) as runners up.

2nd division was won by **The North Star**, 3rd Division by **Four Dummies** and 4th division by **The Transfers**.

MBC's CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR ST ANN'S

13th June The Manchester Bridge Club arranged a charity fund raiser for St. Ann's hospice. 48 players took part and a total of £550.00 was raised.

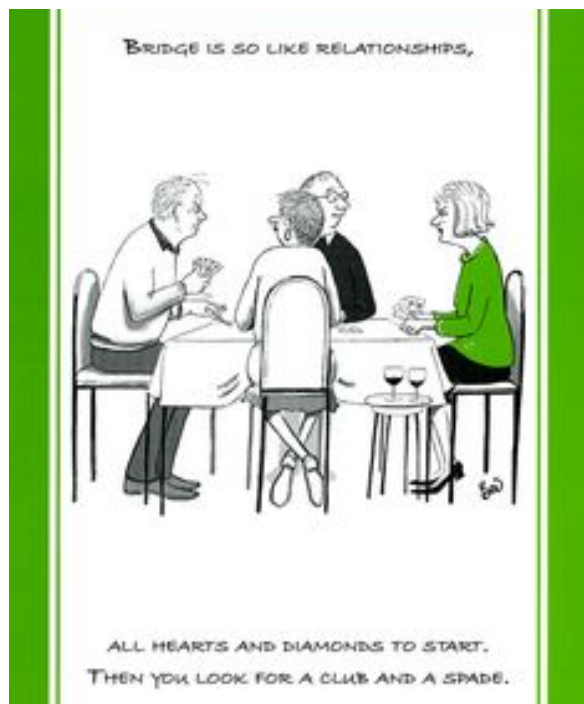
ACTIVITIES OVER THE SUMMER

F2F SUMMER LEAGUE

Eleven teams have signed up and been decided into two divisions. The first match

GREEN POINTED SWISS TEAMS

July 28th at St Peters Altrincham we arrange a Green Pointed teams with generous prizes which include prizes for non expert teams. Enter on the MCBA website and get the chance to play against players of all abilities. Free drinks and biscuits all day and early finish. All details can be found [HERE](#), and registration can be made [HERE](#).



OTHER TOURNAMENTS OVER THE SUMMER

There are ample opportunities for players to engage in some competitive bridge over the Summer:

30th June we have a friendly match with Lancashire. This involves 6 pairs of expert players and 6 pairs of club players, some very new to the game.

For those who want to spread their wings there are the following tournaments this Summer:

Llandudno Pairs on the 3/4th August.

Scarborough Festival of bridge on the 18-21 July.

The Northern Midweek Pairs at Harrogate on 27-29 August.

Links to these tournaments can be found on the [MCBA](#) and [EBU](#) websites.

EUROPEAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Teams Championship is being played in Herning, Denmark 24th June - 4th July. Michael Byrne is playing in the Mixed Teams Championship and John Holland together with Alan Mould in the Senior Teams Championship. Matches can be seen on BBO and we wish all 4 teams the best of luck! More information can be found [HERE](#).

FESTIVAL OF BRIDGE

Four of the EBU affiliated clubs in the county have already signed up to the Festival and announced planned events. You can see all the events planned in England [HERE](#).

Even though we are far away from September, Cancer Research UK have created donation boxes that the clubs can order for free by emailing festival@ebu.co.uk.

EBU have also produced bunting that can be used for the events. This will probably be distributed through the counties as they have a limited supply.

The county's two events (A team match at the Trafford Centre and our Twin Town Tournament) are progressing well. We have had good help from

the French Bridge Federation and two of the invited 15 French clubs have already said "oui".

For our exception match at the Trafford Centre we have 5 players and two "ushers" signed up. I am sure we should manage to get the required number of players (8) and ushers (3) so I have contacted the Trafford Centre and their events manager. To help us we have received a letter of



Authority from Cancer Research UK.

The idea about a separate SIMS tournament has been shelved as EBED is organising SIMS tournaments as a part of the Festival 2nd - 5th September. As Co-ordinator of the Festival for MCBA I'd like to encourage as many clubs as possible to take part in these SIMS.

We will write a lot more about the Festival in the August Newsletter.