

ATTENDANCE AT REGIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2018.
Mid Leinster Region 8 June 2018

My apologies for not being with you this evening, but I am in Ostend at the European Championships since last Monday and hoping to survive the Election to the Executive Committee tomorrow – so wish me luck!!

My thanks to your Regional Officers for the work they do on your behalf – to Blanaid, Ann, Barbara, Marian, Bert, Owen, Neil and all the rest of the team, particularly those who have taken on the jobs of organizing the Region's leagues. This is a huge contributing factor to the success of the Region and the good atmosphere that prevails throughout.

I look forward to working closely with Neil during his CBAI Presidency and I know he will represent the Association extremely well – you might have to let him off the hook from some of his Regional duties during that year! You also lent us John Crimmins over the last year or two and he contributed hugely to the development of various facets of the CBAI in his time with us – its such a shame that Denis O'Brien saw the potential/training and swooped in to snatch him away!

My sincere sympathy to the clubs and families of those members who have passed away during the year; we try to remember all those who have suffered serious illness during the year.

I have you doubt you have congratulated or will be congratulating all the regional prizewinners - can I add my congratulations also, please?

President's Award scheme.

This year the President's Award went to Eileen O'Connor from Borris – congratulations Eileen!!

The award is intended to recognise tireless workers for Bridge who would not receive accolades in any other forum and Eileen has never sought that! President Jim O'Sullivan travelled with me to Eileen's home and surprised her one Saturday morning before the Holmes Wilson – and after Mass!!

Maybe you know of someone else who would truly deserve that award? Every year will be judged on the merits of all those nominated – so get their names into the hat! The names of those nominated will remain in the hat to be reconsidered each year – the only way out is if you pass away!

The nomination form can be downloaded from www.cbai.ie , under Admin / Resources, or email us and we can mail one to you

AFFILIATIONS & MASTER POINTS RETURNS

Thank you for submitting all the affiliation returns from the Region in good time!!

The year-end Master Points Returns were issued at the end of March and I hope you will encourage your clubs to make their returns as soon as they can. If you maintain your Master Points in Excel or in Score Bridge, we can forward the Master Points Summary form to clubs in Excel rather than mail a hard copy - just let me know.

PL Insurance Renewal notices were issued on 2 May to all those clubs who are part of the CBAI scheme; most were sent by email, with a very few by post. The annual premium remains at €105 per club, but a small increase is forecast for renewal in May 2019.

COMPETITIONS

4Fun Teams

We had the 4Fun Teams event for the Kelly Trophy on Saturday 26th May in Westmanstown Sports & Conference Centre – the format was a little different this year, with the Masters & Inter As playing together and the Inter Bs and Novices – both groupings only playing against their opposite numbers. This was being piloted this year, and I had mixed reactions from those involved from the North Eastern Region when I attended their AGM. The North Munster Region did not show up at all and were very negative about Westmanstown last night – even though they were not there this year! The focus must be on the Novice & Intermediate B players and trying to make their experience as enjoyable as possible. You did exceptionally well in getting all those teams there, and I would value your opinion on the format.

Simultaneous Pairs 2018 / 2019

When you are planning your club calendars for next year, remember to include the following dates -

IBU Simultaneous Pairs dates are Monday 5th November, Tuesday 6th November, Wednesday 7th November, and Thursday 8th/Friday 9th November 2018.

CBAI Simultaneous Pairs dates are each day from Monday 4th to Friday 8th February 2019. We will be continuing with prizes for the best Intermediate A1, A2, B1, B2, and 1st & 2nd Novice pairs each day for those who are outside the top prizes together with the special Novice prize of 2 weekends away for the highest % Novice score across the week – the 2018 Novice winners were from Naas Maudlins B C, one of your own clubs.

COURSES

During the past season, we have organised two sessions to introduce Mini-bridge to those interested in promoting bridge in schools, both National and Secondary or even within their own family. More will be set up – just let us know if you are interested.

There will be a new Teachers' training and qualification course during the next season, so if you have potential teachers, get their names to us as soon as you can, and certainly before the end of September. The names on hand will determine the viability of a training weekend. Incidentally we had four CBAI registered teachers from this Region who registered 81 students and distributed Student Packs – this is a great involvement in the scheme?? There is no charge for the packs and this gives the new student a tangible connection to the CBAI for the future.

General Data Protection Regulation

What is GDPR?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new EU regulation which came into effect last Friday - 25 May 2018. GDPR has updated existing data protection laws and will place greater accountability and transparency obligations on organisations when using a

member's personal information. It gives the individual greater control over their personal information.

This will apply to all clubs, groupings of clubs e.g. Counties & Regions and the CBAI. Each of these is identified as Data Controllers and has responsibilities in respect to the data they hold. Counties or regions may not require separate identification as a Data Controller from CBAI, but the responsibility of safeguarding personal data is in no way diminished.

Overview –

All information that is collected on an individual member is regarded as Personal Data. It must be kept secure and only to be used for the express purpose for which it was collected – bridge or other activities for the body involved. Similarly, if you have a visitor/guest to your club, their information is also personal data.

Do not pass on any Personal Data to anyone unless the purpose was specifically covered when the information was collected.

Maintenance of Records

If you keep paper records, they should be kept in a secure location, e.g. locked in a cabinet, with regulated key holders for the location. If you dispose of any of these paper records, they must be shredded before disposal.

If you keep your records on a computer, they should only be accessible by authorised people; the computer and/or folders in which the information is kept should be locked and/or encrypted.

Access to records should only be available to authorised committee members, Officers or managers. When new individuals take up these positions access methods e.g. passwords, should be changed,

Usage of Personal Data

When using personal data entrusted to you, care must be taken not to share any information with others, either deliberately or by accident; for example, if sending a group email, the blind copy (Bcc) facility or a mailshot programme that does not show other addressees must be used.

Clubs should not circulate lists of members with contact details within their own membership – **unless** they have specific agreement from their members. Clubs should regard this time as being a completely fresh start for all their practices, seeking specific permission from members to make use of their personal data. Previous practice of “opting out” will no longer apply – all members must be asked to “opt in” – by specifically giving permission to use personal data.

You must inform everyone from whom you collect data:

- The legal basis for doing so;
- What data you collect;
- How it is stored;
- To whom you pass it on and for what purpose;
- For how long you keep the data;
- What they can do to limit how you use your data.

This will usually be done via a **Privacy Notice**, which may be on your club's website, but a printed copy should also be available in the club and be sent to those who request it. Your

members should be directed to this Privacy Notice on every occasion when you collect data, so it should be referred to on your membership application form. A Privacy Notice will also be posted on the CBAI Website.

Publication of Personal Data

In a situation where a member is an office holder in a club, county or Region, and it is necessary to publish contact information for them either on paper or on another medium, specific permission *must* be sought from the individual for that purpose.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Any application form for membership at Club level should contain a request for permission to use Personal Data for purposes of bridge and include a request for permission to reproduce photographs of members to record their winning of a prize or prizes for bridge and promotion of bridge.

Details of all these GDPR requirements have been circulated to all clubs across the country during the past few weeks – the vast majority by email. They included a Template for Club Privacy Notice and a sample of the Membership Form, which will be printed and distributed in the coming months.

Handicap Systems.

We are embarking on an exercise to establish a recommended handicap system for clubs with mixed grades. If you have a system in operation that is working well for you, either manually maintained or through Scorebridge or similar, please send me a copy of the workings of the system. Gordon Lessells, who was part of the sub-committee that suggested our previous system, will review any submissions with his colleagues on the sub-committee and will produce guidelines for clubs that will hopefully promote a fairer and more equitable prize atmosphere in our clubs.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

At the recent Governing Council meeting, it was agreed that upgrades arising from awards of National Points would only take place at Christmas and at season end – unless the individual player wishes to have the upgrade applied immediately.

Thank you all for your co-operation and hard work during the year.
Paul