

Annual President's Report

Harold Curran Northern Ireland Bridge Union

Reflecting on the past year, we must acknowledge our triumphs and challenges. The NIBU has continued to foster a community where the game of Bridge is not a pastime but a passion. Our governing Council and its sub-committees continue to carry out sterling work to promote our mind sport. However, our beloved game faces a pivotal moment: the imperative to attract younger players. We need two generations of potential players.

THE VITALITY OF YOUTH

The infusion of young blood into the veins of Bridge is not merely a wish, IT IS A NECESSITY! Our game thrives on strategic minds and competitive spirits that youth invariably brings. Without fresh faces across the table, the risk is stark, competitive Bridge could fade from our Union, clubs and tournaments.

INITIATIVES AND OUTREACHES

This year we must lay the groundwork for several initiatives to bring a younger audience, from school programmes to social media campaigns. We must cast a wide net to showcase the intellectual rigour and social camaraderie that Bridge offers. We must partner with educational institutions to introduce Bridge as a tool for cognitive development and strategic thinking.

THE CALL TO ACTION

I urge every member of the NIBU to become an ambassador for Bridge. Share your stories, invite friends and family, and remember each new player is a step toward securing the future of competitive Bridge. Let us work together to ensure the shuffle, deal, and play continue for generations to come.

CONCLUSION

In closing I am reminded of the words of Alfred Sheinwold...." Bridge is not just a pastime, it is a road to a more active mind". Let us pave this road for the young minds waiting to embark on this adventure. Our actions today will define the legacy of tomorrow.

