



Chairman's Annual Report and Chairman's Corner June 2015

One of the most significant events of this year is that Warwickshire has taken over the running of the [Midland Counties Congress](#). The Congress - previously a joint venture between Warwickshire, Staffordshire & Shropshire and Worcestershire – held annually at the beginning of January, will comprise next year a Green Pointed Swiss Pairs on the Saturday (replacing our Green Pointed event in May), a Green Pointed Swiss Teams on the Sunday, and a Blue Pointed Pairs and Open Teams on the Friday. The Green Pointed events will be stratified, so there will be something for everyone, and I do hope that members will support this event, which will be held at West Midlands Bridge Club between 8 and 10 January 2016.

Congratulations to the Markham (third) team who have, for the fifth successive year, won the [Midland Counties League](#). They will now compete in the National Final in July, and we wish them every success. Our Dawes (first) and Porter (second) teams both finished second in their respective divisions. Thanks go to Adrian for his excellent work in fielding the teams, and to all the players, who give up their Sundays to represent our County in the respective divisions.



The Charity Simultaneous Pairs raised an outstanding £1500 in support of [Warwickshire Air Ambulance](#). Thanks go to David and Martin Jones and George Cuthbertson for providing the commentary; to the EBU for administering the scoring; to Sandra Squires for managing the event; to the Clubs who ran heats, and to all of you for playing and being so generous with your donations.

The information provided through the uploading of Universal Membership data this year has once again featured four Warwickshire Clubs in the [top fifty most attended affiliated Clubs in England](#), those being [West Midlands](#) 3rd (3rd in 2013/14 and 2012/13), [Kenilworth](#) 4th (4th in 2013/14 and 6th in 2012/13), [Stratford](#) 12th (10th in 2013/14 and 17th in 2012/13), [Sutton Coldfield](#) 25th (27th in 2013/14 and 26th in 2012/13).

You will, I am sure, have read that the EBU has been granted a Judicial Review against Sport England's refusal to recognise Bridge as a sport. The Executive Committee fully endorse the EBU's decision to seek a Judicial Review, and we hope that they will be successful. You can follow the progress on the [EBU website](#).

The EBU Summer Congress in August is to be held in Brighton for the last time, after which the event will move to Eastbourne. There is an offer available to players who play this year, and next year. Please see the [EBU website](#) for more details.

As part of my role on the Board of the English Bridge Union I am Chairing the National County Working Group. This Working Group has been set up by the Board to focus on what Members, Clubs and Counties feel is important to the future of the EBU, and its representatives are from Regional County Working Groups, which comprise Counties from across England, based on the Inter-County League structure. Warwickshire's representatives are Mike Thorley and Judith Currie, so if you have any comments or suggestions on how you feel the EBU future should develop, Mike & Judith will be delighted to hear from you. You are also welcome to send your comments to [me](#), or to [Sandra](#) (County Secretary) to forward to them.

I reported last year that in recognition of the work involved with Competitions we had created two new roles, one of Chief Tournament Director and one of Competitions Administrator. John Pyner took on the role of Chief Tournament Director, and Lin Birch the role of Competitions Administrator. I am pleased to report that this arrangement has been very successful. The Competitions Committee works very hard to organise a varied and challenging programme of events for us to compete in, and our thanks go to the people responsible for co-ordinating them, Elayne & Mike Meakin, Lin Birch, John Pyner, and Sandra Squires for the Green Point Swiss Pairs. One of our main events, the Warwickshire Pairs League (WPL), is a Swiss Pairs style event using teams scoring, and runs on the third Wednesday of the month (September – June). The League is divided into divisions, to enable players to enjoy competing in a smaller field, with a chance for promotion and, of course, relegation! If you are considering playing in an event you have not played in before, or are considering your first County event, why not try WPL? Please contact [Elayne](#) for more information.

It takes a great deal of time to organise and administer the Teams League and Handicap Knock-Out Cup, and our thanks go to Ron (& Lin) Birch for doing such an excellent job of keeping things on track. If you would like to enter a team in the League, please contact [Ron](#).

During the year the Player Development Group (PDG) ran eight competitions suitable for players with little more than one year's learning through to those with up to ten years' playing experience. Six of the teams who competed in the event launched last year for non-experts will now be playing in the new Introductory Division of the County League. Please talk to [Myra Scott](#), 0121 240 3325, if you have any ideas, or would like to be involved in any of these initiatives. A new initiative this year has been the introduction of MasterClasses. The MasterClasses are run by Stephen Green, and have proved to be informative and stimulating for the players who have attended.

I would like to say thank you to all the people within the County who contribute to the teaching of bridge. They contribute so much to the enjoyment of the game for new players, and each one of them is making a very positive contribution to the future of the game. It is vitally important that when learning the game players are introduced to the family of bridge that is the English Bridge Union and the Counties across England. If you are interested in joining our team of teachers please contact [Myra Scott](#).



Our Junior Bridge and [Minibridge](#) programme continues to develop. West Midlands Bridge Club offers Minibridge sessions at Bentley Heath Primary School, Eversfield Primary School, and Wheelers Lane Primary School, and has been running Junior Bridge sessions on Saturdays. Also, for the first time this year, Minibridge lessons took place at Little Sutton School. Warwickshire ran a hugely successful [Junior Challenge](#) in March, where 50 students

from 4 schools, and a school from Worcestershire, competed in the EBED Bridge and Minibridge Simultaneous Pairs. Warwickshire has been invited to send a group of juniors to the House Lords in July to compete against teams from the House of Lords. The group will meet the Lord Speaker, and enjoy a tour of the Palace of Westminster. The future success of the Minibridge scheme relies on volunteers who give up their time on a weekly basis, and our thanks go to Anne & Chris Brown, Sandra Connop, Dennis Heighway, Vicki Hudson, Adrian & Prue Knight, Penny Noake, Janice Roberts, Tony Whitby, and Phil Williams. If you have time, and are prepared to offer help with running these sessions, [Myra Scott](#), will be very pleased to hear from you.

A special thank you goes to Myra Scott and the Player Development Group, who work very hard to provide a stimulating and varied programme of activities for newcomers and developing players.

[Nicklins LLP](#), accountants and business advisers, of Birmingham, sponsor us, and I would like to thank them for their continued support, and to ask members to consider [Nicklins](#) for any of their accounting or business needs.



After twelve years of representing the interests of Warwickshire Members John Pyner is standing down as one of our Shareholders. Our thanks go to John for his many years of service, and for his excellent reporting of EBU news at our Executive Meetings. John is remaining as a member of the Executive Committee, and as our Chief Tournament Director. Stephanie Galvin has agreed to take over the role of Shareholder, and Colin Lang has agreed to take on the reporting of EBU Meetings to the Executive Committee. Stephanie, Colin and Leslie Reece are our Shareholders, and represent our views at EBU Shareholder Meetings, which are held in London twice a year.

Jan Eden stood down from the Executive Committee during the year. Our thanks go to Jan for his work in the area of publicity.

As you all appreciate, running a County like Warwickshire takes a lot of time, dedication and commitment from a substantial number of people. I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Bridge Clubs, and their Members, who have played host to the many events we have organised during the year, and for their support in ensuring that the affairs of the County are kept in good order. Some of our individual members deserve a special mention: Ken Crane, for his work on BPL and WPL MasterPoints, and other IT related

matters; George Cuthbertson, for his work on the Competitions Committee, and for his Commentaries, reminders and Website updates; Bob Galvin, for being our Independent Examiner; David Kenward for his work with County League Match analysis; Paul Loweth for his work on the County Conduct Committee; Adrian and Prue Knight, Martin Ayers, Ian Brooks, Tony Boyer, Jenny Burr, Tony Cundy, Sue and David Jones, Phil Jones, Margaret Johnson, Peter Oldbury, Malcolm Oliver, David Robinson, Barbara & Steve Royston, Sid Sidney, Mary Taylor, and Jan Wade, for duplimating the many thousands of boards played throughout the year; Mike Meakin, for his support with the organisation and running of events, and the reminders he sends to us; Cathy Everson for her support with scoring; Myra Twyman, for her support with publicity; Roger Twyman, for his work as our Webmaster; the members who captain our County League teams; Roger Bryant, Simon Creasey, Malcolm Oliver, Chris Potter, John Pyner, Mike Sallis, Nick Stevens, and Mike Willoughby for contributing to the many commentaries produced throughout the season. My particular thanks to our Tournament Directors, Ian Hendry, David, Marilyn and Martin Jones, Mike Meakin, Maggs and John Pyner, and Nick Woosnam; some of whom also provide telephone rulings.

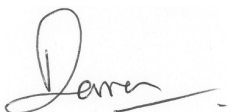
I would like to say a special word of thanks to members of the Executive Committee - Mike Thorley, Sandra Squires, Leslie Reece, Ron Birch, Stephanie Galvin, Adrian Knight, Elayne Meakin, Myra Scott, Judith Currie, Jon Downing, Carolyn Fisher, Jane Hall, David Jones, Colin Lang, John Pyner and Nick Woosnam - for their unfailing dedication and commitment. My thanks also to all of those people I have not mentioned by name, but who contribute so much to the Bridge administration across the County.

I do firmly believe that Warwickshire is one of the most successful Counties in the Country, and for that success to continue and develop it is imperative that we have volunteers from our membership who are prepared to give their time and expertise in support of it. There is a myth that good administrators have to be top players, that is nonsense. Everyone who enjoys the game of bridge has something to offer the game's administration, and I urge each and every one of you to consider what you could offer to support the future of the game in your County.

Finally, and very importantly, I would like to thank all of our Members. Your support of the many Clubs you are members of, your attendance at County Competitions, and your contributions to the administration of the County are all vital to our success - thank you.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the County's administration please do not hesitate to contact me (Chairman@WarwickshireBridge.co.uk).

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer.



Darren Evetts
Chairman