

CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR AGM 2022

Intro:

Welcome everyone to this, the third virtual AGM but first hybrid one. If this proves to be a popular format then, going forward, we will continue to use it. Indeed, there is a resolution later to change the constitution to allow for this in the future.

National Update:

There is a new treasurer at the EBU, Kay Preddy, taking over from Jerry Cope and the new vice chair is Cathryn Fox. The finances are healthier than they thought they were going to be but will still require careful management.

There was the introduction of two extra county chair meetings where the agenda was driven by the counties and the YCBA was chosen together with Kent and Oxford to run the first of these. The idea behind these was to improve the flow of information up from counties to the EBU and to get an idea what was important from our point of view.

There will no surprise as to what was on the first agenda:

Face to face bridge/club support/reattraction of internet players/hybrid events/development of novice players and EBU strategy

Green pointed county events were going to be twice as much to enter online (to encourage face to face) but the EBU backed down in face of strong opposition from some counties and made them only 50% more.

I will come back to some of these later in my county report.

REPORT:

Last year, I talked about getting players involved online and this year it is the opposite in that we are encouraging players to get back to face to face. This weekends congress is a case in point. This weekend is a case in point. Whilst I am quietly delighted with the numbers we will have playing at the magnificent new York Bridge club, compared to the 'good old days' at the Cairn in Harrogate it is quite miserly. However, this is only the second large event we

have organised and the numbers are getting better. If these are to prove really popular once again in the future, we need to encourage players of all abilities to return to face to face both at club and county level. This will take time and not be easy (and no-one knows what is around the corner).

As a county we offered restart grants to clubs to try and help them get going once again with face to face and the treasurer will update you on how many clubs took up the offer and how much we outlaid. I was encouraged at my club on Tuesday where there were 9 tables (nearly twice as many as normal) for what was an ordinary duplicate and hope this trend continues. The holiday period will of course have an impact but as clubs we need to contact those that have not returned to find out why and what we can do to assist their return.

This leads me neatly to the YL. As you know we returned to face to face for the 21/22 season and Mike Jackson, the chair of the YL committee will give a report on this later, together with an update of the online leagues we run as well. This coming season we will be trying a new approach, starting a bit earlier and having a mid season break to try and avoid the travelling in bad weather. Don't worry though there will be an online league in the middle! Many thanks to Mike/Robin Jepson and Stephen Cordingly for their organisational skills in getting these competitions up and running. Also thanks to all those players that took part.

FINANCES:

Our financial position remains strong but again not running some EBU events face to face (GNSP/Spring Congress) means another reduction in income. The freezing of county charge was also a help to clubs but this will also come to an end soon. The treasurer will also give an update on the state of the membership of the county.

RESULTS:

As for the results it is difficult to keep up with any great results achieved by our members but a few results stand out.

Sheffield winning the Garden cities

Robin Jepson/Alan Brosgill 2nd in the SwissP Autumn congress

Daniel Winter being part of the junior Camrose team that won

In the NBL, Yorkshire were second in every division.

Please forgive me if I have forgotten to mention your name and you have done well in a national competition but many congratulations on your result.

WEBSITE:

I appreciate that there are still teething problems with the website and as a board we will be looking to improve the flow of information to our webmaster, Andrew Pearson, as we recognise that this is sometimes not as timely as it should be. The board understand that this is a lot of members first port of call for information on both competitions and results/news.

OTHER:

As I stated in a letter that went out to members, the board, like all the clubs in the county, is run by volunteers who work hard on your behalf regarding competitions/EBU liaison/bridge development etc.

To put it bluntly, we are always on the look out for new members to the board else the county will not be able to function properly, with more responsibilities falling on fewer members of the board. If you are unsure what is involved, do not hesitate to speak with myself or any member of the board and you can be co-opted for a try out! Even board meetings are now run on zoom, so the necessity to travel to meetings from anywhere in the county is negated.

THANKS:

All members of the board for their great work behind the scenes and to Dani Hyman for surviving her first year!

Oliver Cowan for his help with online competition organisation

James Carpenter for his on-line TDing

Jim Edwards for his help with the teaching materials and teaching initiative

Andrew Pearson for the website management.

END.

