

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT TO AGM

2013-14

The past year has been interesting and challenging, and not without some major changes.

As is usual, there has been discussion and disagreement, but we hope that we have used the time to promote bridge in Wales, and to give something to all levels of participants, from Club level to international.

At the AGM I promised to attend all the Congresses and to play in as many Clubs as possible. I have, to date managed to fulfil the first part of the promise, and have played in a significant number of clubs. Hopefully I will manage a few more before the deadline!

The MC meetings have been face to face this year, as I am uncomfortable with SKYPE.

The early part of the year saw the publication of the Alerting and announcing rules. Small changes.

The Presidents Cup and Perry and Spicket Competitions have been discussed in search of a better way forward. No changes made.

The new Learning Bridge document has been made available, with support for learning groups, The first Club to take advantage was Lampeter.

The Credit Card for the CEO has been applied for, but despite Bank red tape, has now been received.

The decision to make the Newsletter an online production was taken.

The Celtic Sims have been an unqualified success, and I encourage all Clubs to take part. The profits are distributed to the Celtic Nations.

One of the biggest steps forward was to provide the selectors with a training/competitions budget of £5000 per annum, to be used at their discretion in training, trials, and international competition

Specific aims were suggested but the money and its usage is in their hands as our experts in this field.

The new Rules-Simplified version is being handed out to Clubs. I hope all will find it a useful addition to Club night.

The reintroduction of the Ladies Team Trophy was a great plus. I was delighted to see eight teams entered. I hope that it will expand, and fully justify the place it now holds in our Calendar.

In line with the above, we have a party working on the restructure of competitions to attempt to make them attractive to a wider audience, without distracting from the current ambiance.

Clear guidelines for international expenses/costs were produced in November, along with current policy on involvement in the international calendar.

Rules were clarified for a number of competitions, including the Webber Cup, the National Open Pairs, the National Mixed Pairs and the Graded Masters.

The proposal of the instigation of a Welsh League has been accepted, and we await the details.

My thanks are due to all who have helped me to survive an especially steep learning curve, as I attempted to find my way through the MC on my first visits. In particular thanks to Neville who has offered support and help throughout the year, to Fiona who has managed a huge job as treasurer, to Phil Bowers who managed, amongst a busy life, to improve my somewhat basic computer use, as well as keeping the log for Masterpoints. Jean Hand has worked through a trying time to keep the competitions running smoothly. A job she has never taken lightly, and continues to ensure all works well. To Laura who

has now left her post on the magazine. We miss her input greatly. Many thanks, Laura , for a job well done. We respect your reasons for resigning. To all member of the MC who have given of their time and expertise, to make my position not only tenable but also very enjoyable.

A final word of thanks to all of you, for continuing to play our great game, to support all that we do, and for giving me such a warm welcome wherever I have been during the year

T.H. (Herbie) Rowley