

## Report of the Chief Executive

The focus of demand for duplicate bridge sessions is changing at a fairly rapid pace with greater empathise on social bridge meetings. The WBU and its affiliated clubs have lost potential membership to a proliferation of purely social bridge clubs. This has become a problem for all National Bridge Organisations not just our own.

I am pleased to report that some of our clubs are offering an increasing range of tuition options to those wishing to learn, or return to playing bridge. Our Education & Club Liaison Officer, Keith Butler, has been working hard on the production of new support material for tutors, and to augment and revise our existing lesson and Power Point presentations.

I am the WBU delegate to Bridge Great Britain and The European Bridge League. To contain costs BGB regular meetings will now be online. Invitations to EBL seminars and meetings have been received and I have managed to resist the lure of a weekend away in Rome and Croatia funded by the WBU. I subsequently receive reports on the meetings and cannot see any real benefit to the WBU by using funds for personal attendance. My thanks go to Patrick Jourdain who is invariably close to the venues on the scheduled dates, and has represented the WBU most ably on several occasions.

The Celtic Sims Event, whose profits help to support our international representation, needs more support if we are ever going to replace the income from the BGB Sims which have now been rebranded as the British Sims. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland share the administration of these Sims and several of our top players have given their time freely to provide the expert commentaries, and I thank them on behalf of the WBU.

The WBU Competition program is being reviewed as the format of many of the events does not fit well with current demands and expectations, and has resulted in reduced participation. The same is true of Congresses, and these too must be tailored to the expectations of our customers both within Wales and further afield. The WBU Competition Journal is now available online and for download, and this allows immediate updates as and when required. The Calendar is also available online and for download as are individual and club Master Point rankings which are regularly updated.

Mike Tedd has managed our traditional website for some time now but is retiring as webmaster in July. He has offered to continue the management of the WBU archives which are an interesting and valuable resource. Once again I thank him on behalf of the WBU for his dedicated efforts.

The recent and additional websites dealing with news, resources and blogs will be amalgamated with the traditional pages at the earliest opportunity.

The WBU Certificated Director Training Courses managed and presented by Tony Haworth have been a real success story with many of our clubs now benefiting by having a pool of well schooled directors available for sessions.

I thank Phil Bowers our Membership & Master Point Secretary, Jean Hand our irrepressible National Tournament Organiser, Fiona Noyce our Treasurer; Paul Denning, Alan Screen, Gwynn Davis and Linda Greenland our Selectors; Patrick Jourdain, Peter Hand and Alan Screen our Laws & Ethics Committee; and members of Council led by our President Herbie Rowley.

I particularly thank the members of our Management Committee who, despite the many brickbats that they receive, continue to serve the WBU to the best of their ability. I also thank sisters Irene Thomas and Jenny Vaughan whose management made the Junior Camrose & Peggy Bayer the success that it was. Lastly I thank all of our WBU members and club officials without whose support there would be no WBU.

**If you consider that you can do a better job, or contribute with your expertise, come and join us.  
We need more volunteers!**