



Ayrshire District Bulletin

It's been two months since the last Bulletin, *or Mini-Bulletin*, so I suppose it is stretching things a little to call this a monthly issue!

Anyway, here's what's been going on

Scottish Swiss Pairs

The Scottish Swiss pairs has a change of venue and a change of date this year. The SBU have been cutting costs and asked us to look at cheaper alternatives to, normally expensive, hotels. We looked at a number of venues, which for various reasons were unsuitable and in the case of schools, unavailable at that time of year. At one time it looked likely that the event would have to be moved outside of Ayrshire. However, Eddie McGeough investigated the Aviator suite at Prestwick Airport and found they were doing a very good deal with an excellent bridge playing room. One concession was that we had to change the date. So now the Scottish Swiss pairs will be on Sunday 1st May, 12 noon start and there will be free parking for the players. We'll communicate more details about the eating arrangements soon. It's hoped that we can encourage more people from Ayrshire to enter this year which will help ensure the event stays local for the long term.

Competitions

On the theme of people playing in competitions – after a couple of simultaneous events that only had 4 or 5 tables and the National pairs quarter finals seeing only a fraction of those eligible to play going forward, it was decided that competitions should be looked at more closely. To start things off, a Sub-Committee of five people from the ABU Council will look in to this. Initially, and most importantly, it's been agreed that feedback from the members is key before we launch into any changes. So you will be hearing from us soon

Competition News

One competition that has increased in popularity this year is the 300 Club pairs. David Sands whipped up enthusiasm and as a result 10 tables took part in one of the most enjoyable events of the season. A prize draw was introduced, won by Maureen Rennie and the second draw won by Henry Crone. The winners of the competition were Janice Thomson and Eddie McGeough.

At the Festive Fun Day on Monday 28th December 19 pairs raised £400 for Save the Children. Ian Burn and Ian McClure winning the event. The Ayrshire individual this year had 27 entrants and was won by David Clements. In the Ann Galt charity Margaret Little and Agnes Lamont finished first overall, playing at the Afton club.

In the Ayrshire pairs final Gordon Smith and David Wiseman came first. They have come close before and both have won the competition previously with different partners. Congratulations to you both.



David Wiseman & Gordon Smith

In the Winter Competition it's been decided that the best 9 scores from a possible 17 will count towards the final prizes. A mention for Anne Murdoch, who is the only person to have played in every Winter Friday so far!

Minibridge

Maureen Rennie, the Minibridge convenor, is planning to enter children from Ayrshire in a Minibridge tournament in Glasgow on 8th March. The annual Agnes Templeton trophy at the Bridge centre is going to be played in May this year. Provided the usual Easter eggs haven't passed their sell by date...

The right Direction

Ayrshire are holding a Basic Club Directors course on Saturday 27th February, 12.30pm at the Bridge Centre. Finishing about 4pm. Anyone interested in attending or who would like more information about the course content should contact Maureen Rennie or me (Jim Tudor). There's a form on the notice board at the Centre.

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Hopin' for an Open day.

We are considering holding an Open Day at the Bridge centre in September. Firstly we need to ensure there are sufficient Beginners classes for us to promote at the Open day!

It's not necessary to be a top player to be a top teacher. There's plenty of teaching materials available for people to get started, so if you think you might like to give it a try then get in touch with us.

National Pairs

The SBU Tournament committee will look at changes to the National Pairs format. Watch this space!

Very sadly we have lost some well known and liked people over the last couple of months. Including Billy Gibson who played at the Kilwinning club. Billy served Ayrshire bridge well by acting as the ABU's auditor for many years. He will be very sadly missed at Kilwinning and by all of us who played against him in the leagues.

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