

## **Report of the Honorary Secretary 2017-18.**

I am pleased to report another year in which the Union was largely free of controversy and discord. This is reflected in the absence of any complaints taken to Council and referred on to the Laws & Ethics Committee.

### **Council**

Council met 6 times during the year. At the first meeting in June 2017 it was agreed to standardise meetings on a bi-monthly basis and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This was to allow members to plan their travel arrangements more easily and in general the plan has worked reasonably well.

### **Selection Committee**

The committee met 9 times during the season. The smaller membership quota has worked well and I am pleased to report that all members contributed meaningfully and constructively to the work of the committee.

### **Tournament Committee**

The committee met twice during the season. Details are covered in the report of the Honorary Competitions Secretary.

### **Laws & Ethics Committee**

The committee met once during the season. Details are covered in the report of the Committee Chairperson

### **Youth Committee**

The committee met twice during the year. Details are covered in the report of the Committee Chairperson

### **Management Committee**

The Management Committee meets immediately before each Council meeting in order to discuss and prepare its proposals and recommendations to be put to the governing body. The committee also had 2 separate meetings during the season.

### **Voting Rights**

The attendance level at several Council meetings was disappointingly low and on one occasion business could not be transacted as the meeting was inquorate. The 2017 Constitution requires at least 6 voting members of Council to be present in order to make a meeting quorate. Council is comprised of 18 members as follows:

Councillors -12 (Club representatives plus the Vice Chair OR Immediate Past Chair)

Officers – 6 including the President and Chairperson

The Management Committee is comprised of 4 officers (Honorary Treasurer, Secretary, Competitions Secretary and Masterpoints Secretary. The President and Chairperson may attend the committee but do not have a vote. Conversely the President and Chairperson may vote on Council business but the other officers do not have a vote in that forum.

The reason for this is to ensure good business practice is followed. The Officers take their decisions and recommendations to Council and it is for Council to vote on whether to accept or reject them.

However the fact that the Constitution only counts voting members as contributing towards the quorate requirement has caused problems during the year. For this reason Council is asking the AGM to amend the constitution to allow ALL members present to count towards making a meeting quorate.

It is important to stress that no change in voting rights is being proposed.

The amendment will be put to the members immediately following the 2018 AGM.

### **Affiliation**

The number of affiliated clubs remains unchanged at 41. The affiliation year runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup> each year in tandem with what is generally considered to be the bridge 'season'. Fees are paid between November and February each year.

### **Data Protection**

In order to comply with good practice, email correspondence within the Union should be blind-copied when it is sent to a number of individuals. An exception can be made when the members have a common interest e.g. as a committee.

Michael McFaul