Scottish Bridge Union
Eastern District Newsletter – 2006/07 N0.4

A Happy New Year to everyone in the Eastern District and apologies for the large gap between this Newsletter and the previous one – due mainly to technical problems like my computer going into 'strange' mode from which it has not yet fully emerged. Since the last one, the Camrose trials and the 1st Camrose were completed, the Gold Cup and its associated Congress held, and a host of events have taken place in the Eastern District. The most notable of these was the winning of the **Gold Cup** by **Dave Walker's team of Malcolm Cuthbertson, Brian Short, John Matheson, Douglas Piper and John Murdoch** – the first Scottish team to do so since 1982. There are some good photos of the winners on the ED website www.sbueast.org.uk

Recent Events

The **McGregor Cup** mixed pairs event was won by Iain Sime and Sam Punch with Moray Jeffrey and Veronica Guy second and Alan Gordon and Beryl Campbell third.

Our first **not quite shark-free Swiss Pairs** proved to be a successful format with 46 pairs taking part. The winners in a very close finish were Jim Smart and Nicol Taylor by 1 VP from Tim MacKay and Paul Gipson, with George Plant and Peter Moss third.
Ian Macaulay and Elizabeth Peckham claimed the Silver prize with Jim McDowall and Thea Teale second and Antony Bates and Jane Stephenson third.
Norman and Bett Morrison won the Bronze prize with Eva Heavens and Moyra Forrest second.

This recent SBU initiative of awarding Silver and Bronze prizes attracted a lot of positive comments from competitors who appreciated the opportunity to be successful. Please note this applies to all SBU events now.

Gold Cup Congress - Peebles
In the Swiss Pairs, Liz McGowan and David Liggat finished first ahead of Iain Sime and Patrick Home. Les Steel was in the winning team in the Swiss Teams.

Rayne Cup
The qualifying heats were won by Les Steel / Jim McGeorge/ David Walker/ Malcolm Cuthbertson from Brian Short/ Jack Paterson/ Liz McGowan/ John Matheson and these two teams represented the East in the Dundee final. Steel et al prevailed in the final and retained the trophy after a split tie with the Ayrshire team. David Weir was in the West team that finished third with the Short team fourth.

Cowan Cup
Our District Pairs final was won by Fiona McQuaker and Malcolm Cuthbertson with Harry Smith and Finlay Marshall second, and Liz McGowan and John Matheson third. The first two pairs now represent the East in the Spence Cup which will be held in the Highland District in May.

Forthcoming Events

The annual **No Fear** tournament aimed at relative beginners at bridge takes place on Sat. Feb 24th at the Carlton BC at 1pm. Simultaneous to this is the **Next Step** tournament aimed at club players. Entries please to Anne Perkins on 01315396634 or anne@sbueast.org.uk. Entry to either is £5 per player including table money. Don't worry if you've never entered a bridge competition before – help is always on hand, and an expert commentary prepared by Liz McGowan is given in the hand records at the end for you to peruse at leisure at home.

Allan Flitch – District Married couples pairs tournament. Held on Saturday March 3rd at 7pm at Melville BC. Entries to Laura Middleton on 01316671849 or laura@sbueast.org.uk.

Note also that the **District Ladies and Mens Teams of Four** competitions start at the end of April, and there is a one day Swiss Teams for the **Hunter Cup** on April 29th. Further information will be given in the next Newsletter.

Last but not least, for those of you ranked District Master or below, the **Johnston and Kennedy Pairs** is on Sunday 25 March in the Carlton Bridge Club at 1pm. This is a national competition (red points!) held simultaneously at venues all over the country.

League and KO News

Currently, the top positions in each Division are as follows:

Div. 1 – Falkirk A and 49ers

Div. 2 – Berwick A and Raiders

Div. 3 – Skateraw followed by Pentland, Athenians and Colinton Castle

Div. 4 – Penicuik and Orion

Div. 5 – Mallard and Ratten

The Handicap Knockout is mostly at the quarter-final stage with these ties due to be played –
Linlithgow v Waverley
Borderers v Skateraw
Comiston v Royal Scots B
Hawks or Scramblers v Merchiston.

Improvers Classes at the Carlton BC

Liz McGowan continues her occasional seminars for the Club Player on these dates:

Monday 22 January:	Signalling in defence
Monday 5 February	Cue-bidding to slam
Tuesday 20 February	Defences to 1NT
Tuesday 6 March	Squeeze Play
Tuesday 20 March	Suit Preference Signals
Tuesday 3 April	Re-opening the Bidding

£4 per session, open to all comers.
The topics have been suggested by you, further suggestions for future seminars welcome.

A Date For Your Diary
Kelso Bridge Club are holding their first Bridge Congress at Kelso Racecourse (The Tweedie Room) on Sunday June 17th 2007 at 1.30 for 2.00pm. Further details and entry form on the ED Website or Kelso BC website.

Melville Bridge Club
The Melville has now had 3 successful Friday evenings when people can turn up and draw for a partner. This is to encourage new members to come along and meet others who may be looking for partners, and to help people take the step from classes to playing in the Club.
The next such event will be on Friday March 2nd 2007 at 6.45pm. Just turn up – you will be guaranteed a game, and visitors fees don't apply.