

## Report back to SBU East District members

November 2011

It is a little time since I last reported back to members but the Committee has been busy running events and dealing with issues that have arisen on your behalf.

Once again the League is proving very popular and improvements introduced this year are making it run even more smoothly. We are discussing introducing a 'starters' league for players who have recently completed the education programme – watch the website for an announcement.

Also arising from discussion of the League it was reiterated that teams should be encouraged to play the boards in random order if there is any risk of remarks being overheard. One team has asked what to do if an opponent has psyched – that is, making a bid totally different to what they hold in order to mislead opponents. Although this is a legitimate tactic where play records are kept to avoid a pair getting an unfair advantage, we agreed that this should be discouraged in our leagues. Captains should report such incidents to the League Secretary.

The entries for events have been a bit down this year but the Committee is loath to either increase entry fees or reduce prize money. Good quality events are provided at a very reasonable cost, mainly because so many people give their time free. Can I urge all clubs and members to support the events and make them known to others who might find them enjoyable. We are committed to giving Silver & Bronze prizes for all of our competitions even if those teams finish down the field [to see if you qualify for Bronze or Silver look on the website [www.sbueast.org.uk](http://www.sbueast.org.uk)] but this may not always be possible when the number of entries is down and the team(s) concerned scores below average [for silver] or come last[for bronze].

The District has a very small budget, which is particularly stretched. Costs of venues, engraving etc continue to rise and the district is expecting to make a loss again this year, eating into our reserves. This will be kept under close scrutiny and I hope that it will be possible to have a full discussion at the East District AGM on the way forward. Please put 3<sup>rd</sup> May in your diary and let us know your views. The next East District Committee meeting is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February and anyone wishing to bring anything to our attention should contact me or the secretary, Anne Perkins, beforehand.

**FINALLY MAY I WISH ALL MEMBERS AND CLUBS BEST WISHES FOR XMAS & HOGMANAY AND EXPRESS SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF MY COMMITTEE WHO WORK SO HARD ON OUR BEHALF.**

Best wishes

***MIKE ASH***

Chairman, East District