

The Irish Bridge Union

President:
Mr Harold Curran

Vice President:
Mr Peter O'Meara

Report to CBAI Governing Committee & Management Committee, September 2021

1. Annual Meeting

The IBU held its annual meeting on 16th August 2021, at the Citynorth Hotel, Gormanstown. The following officers were elected:

President – Harold Curran
Vice-President – Peter O'Meara
Joint Hon Secs – Martin Brady and Anne Fitzpatrick
Treasurer – Anne Fitzpatrick

2. Finance

Due to increasing international commitments, the IBU is projecting that it will have to dip significantly into its reserves for the next four-year budget cycle. Already severe economies have been made to the funding of some of our international teams, including no funding at all for the recent European qualifier for the 2022 World Championships.

An energetic and extensive programme of fundraising is urgently required, and Harold Curran and Peter O'Meara have taken up this task. If anyone has any suggestions, and particularly any leads for potential sponsorship, Peter would be very pleased to hear from you.

3. International Teams

The following teams represented Ireland in the European qualifier for the 2022 World Championships, held remotely between 23-28 August 2021, mostly in Templeogue (with one Irish player playing from New Zealand):

OPEN Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Adam Mesbur, Nick Fitzgibbon, John Carroll, Mark Moran. NPC Grainne Barton. Result: 21st (out of 31)

WOMEN Joan Kenny, Jeannie Fitzgerald, Gilda Pender, Rebecca O'Keeffe-Brown, Hilary Dowling-Long, Siobhan Part. NPC Brid Kemple. Result: 20th (out of 24)

SENIORS BJ O'Brien, Ranald Milne, Peter Goodman, Terry Walsh, Gay Keaveney, Enda Glynn. NPC Derek O'Gorman. Result: 15th (out of 24)

Joint Hon. Secretaries:-

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MIXED Carol-Ann Cummins, John Noonan, Sandra Newell, Michael McAuliffe, Louise Mitchell, David Walsh. NPC Harold Curran. Result: 19th (out of 21)

4. Competitions, 2021-22

Though numbers of entries were down in 2020-21, profits were reasonably robust, largely down to the reduced expenses (most especially venue hire). While we can now draw on considerable experience in organising online events, it will obviously be better for the Union to return to face to face bridge as soon as health and safety permit. The exceptions will be the IBU Simultaneous Pairs, which can conveniently continue with its online heats, and the IBU Club Pairs, where the intermediate event (in particular) enjoyed a significant boost in numbers. It is not attractive to intermediates to travel the length of the country for a 2-session event, and it is hoped that continuing online will boost the entries and the profile of this event.

5. Irish Youth Bridge Committee

Detailed reports of the IYBC's work will be provided elsewhere, but its formal reporting line is directly to the IBU, and the IBU commends the committee's continuing energetic work in organising junior competitions and training. We thank Dermot O'Brien in particular for his leadership of this committee in recent years, and wish him well for his new role.

6. Thanks

We conclude by thanking Paul Porteous for his contribution to the work of the Union over the past many years. Paul has made an immense contribution to the development of Irish bridge and the strength of the game at all levels owes much to his capable stewardship. We wish him all the best for a well-deserved retirement.

MB, 7/9/21 (draft)

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