**Chairperson’s report for AGM 2017**

**Manchester County finds itself in a reasonably healthy position in 2017. Attendance at clubs overall is steady. County competitions are well attended and Manchester players are prominent in competitions in the North and are always considered a force in National competitions.**

**Our headline news this year must be John Holland’s well deserved induction into the European Bridge League’s Hall of Fame. This will take place in June this year at the European Championships in Montecatini in June. Congratulations to John.**

**Alan Mould and Ollie Burgess have been elected as National selectors at the Shareholders meeting. Congratulations to them both.**

**We have 3 officers retiring from their posts this year. Mike Newman has put in 10 excellent years as the County Secretary. Haidee Tattersall has done two years in what was a big job as treasurer and Ken Hassell has completed two years as Chair of Selectors, a very delicate job. Thanks to all of them for their hard work and selflessness. The County relies on the unpaid work of its officers. I must send a big thank you to all our officers and others who give up their time to help ensure that everything runs smoothly in the County.**

**Roll of Honour**

**June 2016**

**Corwen Trophy**

Manchester’s top placed finishers were Gillian McMullan & Neil Thomas, 31at out of 98.

**Yorkshire Congress**

Michael Byrne’s team were victorious. Michael also won the mixed pairs with Fiona Brown.

**European Championships at Budapest**.

John Holland played in England’s Senior team and Alan Mould coached the Open team.

**Castle Pairs at Huddersfield**

This event was won by Gillian McMullan & Neil Thomas

**July 2016**

**WBU Swiss Pairs**

Rhona and Bernard Goldenfield were 3rd.

**European Youth Pairs**

Michael Byrne was the Non-playing Captain.

**ACBL Life Masters in Washington**

Ollie Burgess and Ed Levy finished 20th.

**August 2016**

**Preston Summer Pairs**

Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won this event.

**EBU Summer Congress at Eastbourne.**

In the Swiss Pairs last year's winners Michael Byrne and Kieran Dyke finished fourth, with John Holland and Alan Nelson 13th in a field of 270 pairs.
Kath Nelson and Bill Hirst (ex Manchester) were second in the senior pairs, with Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield sixth.
Michael Byrne was second in the Tuesday Open Pairs with Jonathan Richards, and also second in the GCH Fox Championship Pairs with Ewa Kater.
Michael Byrne was second again in the mixed pivot teams with Mike Bell, Sarah O'Connor and Ben Norton, with Gary Hyett third with Ros and Geoffrey Wolfarth and Brian Senior.
And another second place, this time for Kath and Alan Nelson, Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield in the Senior Swiss Teams.
And finally a win for Michael Byrne in the midweek knockout teams with Tom Townsend, Alex Hydes, Sarah O'Connor, Tom Paske and Ewa Kater.
In the teams qualifier Alec Smalley, Michael Newman, Toby Nonnenmacher and Alex Roberts did very well to finish fourth just behind John Holland playing with Ben Green, Sally Brock and Barry Myers and Gary Hyett playing with Howard Melbourne, Barbara Travis and Fiona Brown.
Michael Byrne playing with Kieran Dyke, Mike Bell and Fiona Brown qualified for the B final.
In the A final Gary Hyett's team won, with John Holland's team second, while Alec, Michael, Toby and Alex finished eighth.
In the B final Michael Byrne's team were third.

**September 2016**

**Bolton Congress**

 Rodney Lighton, John Currie, Nicholas Greer and Neil Thomas won the Swiss Teams on Sunday for the second year running in a field of seventeen teams.  Third equal were Howard Melbourne, Barbara Travis, Alan Mould, Ollie Burgess and Ed Levy, Rob Myers, Laura Covill, Rob Dixon.  In the pairs Chris Hine and Stephen Ward finished second.  Rob Myers was third with Phil Godfrey of Yorkshire.  Rhona Goldenfield and Marianne Farr were second in the Ladies Pairs.

**World Bridge Games**

John Holland played for the England Seniors in this event.

**Cumbria Congress**

 Best results were achieved by Joyce and Bill White with Tim and Babs Matthews of Cumbria who were second in the Swiss Teams, Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield with Joy and Irving Blakey were fourth and Bernard and Rhona again who were third in the Swiss Pairs.

**October 2016**

**North Wales Swiss Pairs**

Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won at Shotton on Sunday 9th October, John Holland and Tony Coley were third.

**Chester Bowl**

Most successful pairs were Lance Bloohn and Roger Hopton who were third in the consolation final and John Currie and Rodney Lighton second in the main final.

**Premier League**

The EBU trial for the Camrose Trophy was played over three successive weekends in autumn 2016.  In the second division John Holland's team won gaining promotion to the first division.  Alan Mould's team were second also gaining promotion.  Gary Hyett substituted one weekend in Alan's team.  Michael Byrne's team finished fifth in the first division and stay up.

**Lancashire Green Point Events**

Lancashire held two one day green point events on the 29-30th October.  Congratulations to Kath and Alan Nelson who won the teams on Sunday at Blackburn with Jeff Smith and Jackie Pye of Lancashire.  Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield were third in the pairs at Brierfield on Saturday and also third in the teams with John Currie and Rodney Lighton.

**November 2016**

**Seniors Congress**Congratulations to Kath and Alan Nelson winners in the pairs at the EBU Seniors Congress in Reading on 5th November.

**Pendle Witch Pairs**

About a dozen Manchester pairs went to Brierfield on Sunday 13th November for the enjoyable Pendle Witch Pairs.  Winners were Boris Ewart (making a rare appearance) and Peter Foster, with last year's winners John Currie and Rodney Lighton third and Andy Green and Janet Tolan fifth.  Peter Jones and Adam Wiseberg were second in the non-expert category.

**Aviemore Congress**

A few Manchester players went North to the Aviemore congress on the 12-13th November.  Winners of the consolation teams were Bill and Joyce White playing with Babs and Tim Matthews of Cumbria.  Second were Neil Thomas, Gillian McMullan, Dave Hammonds and Corrine Ross who were also second in the Swiss Teams.

**Foundation Cup**

Congratualtions to Peter Foster, John Roberts, Neil Thomas and Gillian McMullan who won the teams event at Blackburn on Sunday 20th November.

**December 2016**

**Llangollen Swiss Teams**Winners at Llangollen over the weekend of 3rd-4th December were Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, John Holland and Jackie Pye ahead of Michael Byrne, Fiona Brown, Ciaran Coyne and Hugh McGann.

**Seniors**
Seniors Trials took place at the West Midlands Bridge Club on 17-18th December.  John Holland and Paul Hackett were in the team which finished second.

**Juniors**
Junior teams played in the Channel Trophy in London from 16th-18th December.  Manchester's Alex Birchall was in the Under 26 team and Michael Byrne was npc for the U21s.  All the junior teams finished second in their respective events.

**Blackpool Year End Congress**

John Holland and Alan Mould won the Swiss Pairs on 28-29th December with overnight leaders Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield finishing fourth.  In fifth place were Kevin Higgins and Richard Acaster who also won the B category prize.
In the Swiss Teams on December 30th Peter Jones was second with Paddy Murphy, Liz Commins and David Stevenson.  Third and category B winners were Janet Tolan, Andy Green, Michael Wymer and Stephen Ward.  Haidee Tattersall won the C category of the teams with Olwen Renowden, Edward Jones and John Councer.

**January 2017**

**Gold Cup Upset**Congratulations to Raymond Semp's team (Toby Nonnenmacher, Jeff Smith and Alan Nelson) who beat Brian Senior's number seven seeded team in a third round Gold Cup match at Manchester Bridge Club on Friday 6th Jan.

**Simultaneous Pairs**

Congratulations to Ken Hassell and Ian Kane who scored 73.58% playing at Marple Bridge Club on Wednesday 11th January finishing first nationally for the sixth time in one of these events.

**Chester Congress**

Rodney Lighton and John Currie were first equal in the Pairs final at Deva on Saturday 21st January, with Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield fourth.  In the consolation final Lance Bloohn and Karen Sandler were third.
In the Swiss Teams on the Sunday Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield, Kath and Alan Nelson won.

**February 2017**

**Bridge Overseas Congress Lisbon**Joy and Irving Blakey made an excellent start in this event, winning the pre-congress pairs on 2nd Feb and the Swiss pairs on the 3rd-4th Feb.  They completed a successful holiday by finishing second in the Swiss Teams with Sandy Davies and Warner Solomon.

**March 2017**

**National Pairs**

A number of Manchester pairs went to Bradford on Sunday 12th March to play in the Northern heat of the National Pairs qualifying.  Only John Roberts and Pete Foster were successful, finishing second at Bradford after a big second session and qualifying for the national final.

**Cumbria Congress**

The Cumbria Congress is taking place over the weekend of 17-19th March.
In the Mixed Pairs on Friday Steve Mattinson and Pauline Lang won, with John Holland and Jackie Pye third.  In the Ladies pairs Joyce White was second playing with Babs Matthews.  Joy and Irving Blakey were third in the Championship Pairs.

**Hubert Phillips - Manchester Final**

Following on from Jeff Smith's team's (John Holland, Alan Mould, Jackie Pye, Sub Rhona Goldenfield) win in the semi-finals , Michael Byrne's team (Ollie Burgess, Fiona Brown, Hugh McGann) beat Sally Brock's team at Spondon on Saturday 19th March to set up a final featuring a majority of Manchester players for the first time since 1999. The final will be held at Manchester Bridge Club on Sunday 25th June. Spectators will be welcome.

**April 2017**

**Wrexham**

The North Wales association held a Swiss weekend on 1st-2nd April at Wrexham.  Pat Burrows and Pauline Lang were second in the pairs with Jeff Morris/Tracy Capal and Peter Jones/Paddy Murphy joint third.  In the teams Gary Hyett/Tracy Capal with Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won narrowly ahead of Peter Jones' team.

**Easter Festivals**

EBU events were held at London and Ilkley over Easter.
In the Northern event Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won the mixed pairs, John Holland and Jeff Smith won the open pairs, both on Good Friday. John Holland/Alan Mould won the Swiss Pairs with Kath & Alan Nelson third. In the Swiss Teams Bernard & Rhona Goldenfield, Kath & Alan Nelson won.  . In London Ollie Burgess had an excellent result winning the pairs with David Bakhshi in a field of over 100 pairs.

**EBU Spring Fours**

The EBU's double elimination event is took place over the bank holiday weekend.  By Sunday evening (end of round 3) Marion Robertson's team including Michael Byrne and Toby Nonnenmacher's team including John Hassett and John Holland were once defeated.  They played each other in round 6, resulting in a narrow victory for Michael's team.  Michael's team then lost in the quarter finals to Zia.

**Madeline Berney Swiss Pairs**

 Bernard and Rhona Goldenfield won this pairs event at Brierfield on Sunday 30th April.

**Congratulations to all.**