



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Frances Sheehy - Life Member

Congratulations to Frances on being made an Honorary Life Member at the recent AGM.

Corrections to Prizegiving 2023

Two corrections need to be made to the results announced at the AGM:

- the Plunket Trophy was won by off the stick by Paula Davies & Caroline Scrivener
- the Hope & Associates competition handicap winners were Lester Rowland & Wayne Grant

Promotions to Silver

You will all be aware that the 2023 Bronze promotions to Silver did not go smoothly. At the AGM the Committee was asked to revisit the guidelines which we have done.

Below is the relevant excerpt from the Draft Minutes for our meeting of 6 Dec

AB noted the history behind removing the automatic right to promotion for the winners of the Bronze Champ Pairs. In previous years some winners of the Bronze Champ Pairs had refused promotion to Silver, but kept on winning the Bronze Champ Pairs. This was seen as unfair and as "blocking" promotion for others. This led to a change in the rules as to who could win the Bronze Champ Pairs with previous winners (and their partners) disqualified. However in its turn this led to the situation where a pair that might have come second, third or fourth etc off the stick nevertheless became the winners (as those above them in the results were disqualified) and thus entitled to automatic promotion.

The Committee became concerned that players might be being automatically promoted who in fact were weaker players than others in the Bronze division and who might struggle in Silver (and thus become discouraged and leave). It was seen as fairer to all that everyone promoted should have met the same basic standard of play and thus the automatic right of promotion was dropped but the current guidelines were reconfirmed as the trigger for a Bronze player to be considered for promotion.

A thorough discussion was held and it was agreed that the current guidelines should remain but that a cutoff date be added.

The Committee therefore confirmed the following as the Guidelines for Promotion to Silver:

Promotion to the Silver Division is at the invitation of the Committee. The following guidelines are used by the Committee:

Bronze players must have over the whole year (Mondays nights only):

- (i) achieved an average score of 55.00 or more as worked out by the Scorer Programme; and***
- (ii) played on at least 10 nights (excluding Teams competitions); and***
- (iii) played with 5 or more different partners.***

The assessment date is at 31 October or after the last Championship Pairs round, whichever is later.

Kurow January Tournament 2024

Sadly this will not be taking place.

Holiday Pairs - Jan 2024

We restart in January with Thursday night Holiday Pairs - first session 11 Jan 2024.

Combined Bronze/Silver Wine & Cheese Evening - 16 Jan 2024 7pm

I will send out a reminder again closer to the time - the wine and cheese evening is to allow people to find partners for the various competitions over the year and to have a catch up before we start play proper again.

Finding Partners for 2024

There are a number of ways to find partners and don't be shy about looking for a partner:

- come to the combined Bronze/Silver wine and cheese evening (details above)
- call a partner finder (numbers on front of Programme)
- ask at any session you are playing in
- and if all else fails call Liz Drew

And for those who I will not see on Friday - best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards
Alison
Secretary