

Well I can't believe that Christmas is almost upon us already and I hope you are looking forward to the festive season.

It has been a busy year so far with more to come over the following months.

The summer seems a distant memory now but I am pleased to say that Pollok Williamson was well attended with an average of 2 full tables more than last year each week. A huge thank you to Ian Burn for directing every week and to Stewart Duguid for his continued generous sponsorship. Likewise the Viking Pairs, Teams, Ronnie Alexander Pairs and the Thea Teale were well attended. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to our directors.

Ayrshire participated in the nationwide Festival of Bridge event, holding three events through the week 9-15 September. The aim was to promote bridge and raise funds for Cancer Research. The three events as well as raffle donations from the Kilmarnock and Doon clubs (huge thanks to their members) raised £667. The district events were very enjoyable although, sadly, not as well supported as we would have hoped.

In October we held the annual Presidents vs Vice Presidents match and it was great to see so many clubs represented. It was a very pleasant afternoon and I am pleased to say there was a narrow win for the President's team !

Ayrshire Pairs heats have been played in the clubs with the top half of each field being eligible to play in the semi-finals. If you qualify I hope you will consider playing but, if not, all I ask is that you let us know one way or the other.

Also in the New Year, the Ann Galt will be played in the clubs. This year the charity is Dementia Friendly Prestwick. It supports people with dementia and their families/carers to feel included and remain part of their community for as long as possible. I hope you will all support this worthwhile local cause.

The new Ayrshire District League is up and running with, for its first year, a very encouraging 15 teams competing across 2 divisions. Despite our results, we are enjoying the matches and format and I hope that everyone else is too.

Lessons for beginners are underway and the good news is that Maureen Rennie is running two classes this year to meet demand !

We have held two successful Play and Learns this season averaging 40 people per session with another 3 planned for next year. The next one will be on January 31<sup>st</sup> with Chris Gurney and the topic is "How Inference Bids and Simple Rebids will transform your game"

Clubs will shut down for the festive season but if you fancy a game, why not come along to the Festive Fun Day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December. It is always a pleasant afternoon with all proceeds going to charity.

All that remains is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Best wishes for 2025.

Fiona