

President's Report to the Regional AGM 19/11/11

My report is limited to a brief review of the last 12 months.

I would like to start by thanking Bill who is standing down after holding the membership secretary / treasurer position for 7 years. Some positions are essential to the existence of the region and we are fortunate that Bill has covered 1 of those for so long.

Not as essential but still very important is the position of Playing Officer and I would like to thank James for holding that position although unfortunately only for 1 year since he has now transferred to Chiltern region.

In 2011 Regional and club events continue to be well attended. Over the summer there were 29 events with an average attendance of 39 players. This doesn't include 2 regional squad events and several melees.

The regional squad lost narrowly against Leicestershire (23 to 25) and completely overwhelmed West Midlands (40 to 8). The good results continued at Brean where last years promotion fiasco was finally corrected by the championship squad winning division 2.

The challenge squad were unable to match last years squad who won the challenge but they did well enough to remain in division 1 next year.

The newly qualified coaching team made a good start and I'm sure we'll hear in the regional meeting after the AGM what plans there are to follow this up.

Not a lot of good results to report from Northern players playing in national tournaments this year. The best performances were by Chris Best and Angie Gaughan who finished 2nd in the National Ladies Triples and by Steve Meadowcroft and Robert Eunson who reached the semi final of the Champion of Champion Pairs.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the regional tournaments this year,

Singles	- Rob Fox
Pairs	- Colin Smith & Andy Willis
Triples	- Steve Meadowcroft , Robert Eunson & Mike Anderson
Mixed Pairs	- Pat Rowlands & Kamel Mouloudi
Player of the year	- Steve Meadowcroft

Although there are problems at times, overall the region is running smoothly.

The main area of concern is that we don't stagnate.

I don't have figures for the average age of the region's members but I'm sure it s going up. The problem shows up most in the lack of juniors but there are also very few new young or even middle aged players. I'm not suggesting there is an easy answer or that it's a critical problem but it's something we will have to address.