Corn Cairdis

AN CORN CAIRDIS

26-28 April 2013

Friday evening saw Keith and Pat Benson, Morris and Liz Brown, John and Pauline Middleton, Bill Prior and Elaine van Heel at Leeds/Bradford Airport to meet the 12 players from Eire coming over to play in the Annual match against England. We took the players straight to the Aagrah because you really can not come to Bradford without sampling curry! 20 of us had a very convivial evening before the players went home with their hosts.

The following day, Saturday, the hosts brought their guests to the Club in time to meet the English players and for everyone to have a light buffet lunch. The Official Team was made up of Sally Bugden (Chairman of the English Bridge Union) and her husband, James; Peter Stocken and Philip Mason (Chairman of Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association): The County Team had four Bradford members, Stuart Davies; George Bak, Gill Copeland and Steve Blackburn: The Club Team had Julia Staniforth (YCBA Secretary), Gill Woodcock, Judith Biles and Stephen Pollard.

The two sides played bridge for some 6 ½ hours ending up the day with England leading by a very small margin.

At 8.15pm the players and hosts Keith and Pat, Morris and Liz, John and Pauline, Bill Prior and Rita Trickett – 33 in all – joined together for a three course dinner cooked by Margaret Brayshaw and me and more than ably assisted by Joyce Carey and Susan Hoyle. As Joyce said “It’s a first for me to do some waitressing!” We finished off with coffee and Margaret’s famous home made chocolates. By the time the coffee came some speeches had been made and then the jokes began…….the Irish jokes far outnumbered the English ones! It was an exceptionally lively evening and finished around midnight.

Sunday saw the hosts bringing their guests to the Club in time to start play at 11.30a.m., with a break for a full buffet lunch. At the end of the day England won after a very close match. Most of the hosts along with Laurie and Margaret Andrews then transported the guests back to Leeds/Bradford to get their evening flight back to Dublin. The atmosphere in the Club was absolutely fantastic for the whole weekend.

I would like to thank all the members who hosted our guests and helped in other ways to make the weekend such a success.

Elaine van Heel
Another view

The Club hosted an interesting and historic event recently. This was the Corn Cairdis, a friendly contest between the English Bridge Union and the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland. It owes its origin to the withdrawal of the Republic of Ireland from the Camrose competition, due to the political situation, in 1951 The CBAI is the national body for Bridge in the Republic of Ireland. The series was started in 1993 with a four way match in Dublin. The participants were the English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh National associations. Since then, the competition has been held annually, hosted by clubs in the various countries in turn. We hosted the 1996 event. In 1998, Ireland rejoined the Camrose, defeating Wales in their first contest in 47 years. Scotland and Wales then withdrew from the Corn Cairdis, England and Ireland continuing. This year, the event returned to Bradford.

The event, which was held on the 26th and 27th April, was contested by three teams of four players from each Country. The teams consisted of Club and County level players and of Officials.

CBAI

EBU

The Club Players

The County Players

The Officials

Players

EBU		CBAI
Stuart Davies	County	Jim Doyle
George Bak		Jim Sexton
Gill Copeland		Katherine Lennon
Steve Blackburn		Frank O'Farrell
Julia Staniforth	Club	Stephen Bearpark
Gill Woodcock		Cathy Bearpark
Judith Biles		Paul Delaney
Stephen Pollard		Sean O'Lubalgh
Peter Stocken	Officials	Liam Hanratty
Sally Bugden		Michael O'Connor
James Bugden		Frank Kelly
Philip Mason		Brenda Kelly

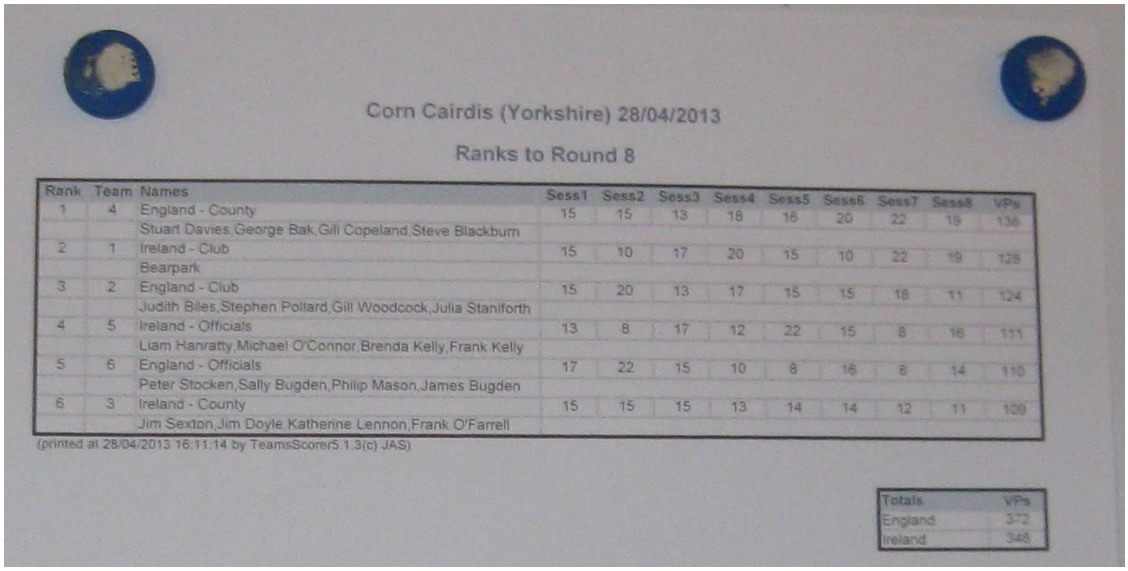
Tournament Director Rob Turner

On Saturday, 26th, the players and others concerned with the running of the event met in our club, when the proceedings commenced, at 12 noon, with a Buffet lunch followed by a Welcome. In the course of this, Philp Mason, Chairman YCBA, recalled the earlier event and introduced the key personnel for the day, Bob, Club Steward, and Elaine and Margaret, who masterminded the hospitality. He recalled that all three had been present at the 1996 round. A number of players an officials on both sides had also been present, and several acquaintances were renewed. The preliminaries over, play commenced, in the upstairs room, at 1.00 pm under the Directorship of Rob Turner of the YCBA.

Play on Saturday continued until about 7.20 pm, when the company shared a celebration dinner served in the downstairs room.

Play in progress

Play continued on Sunday, 28th, beginning at 11.30am, and ending about 4.15 pm.
The final round was a nail-biting time, as it was clear that the scores were very close. The final result was agreed as a victory for the EBU, who scored 372 victory points, the CBAI scoring 348 victory points.



Corn Cairdis (Yorkshire) 28/04/2013

Ranks to Round 8

Rank	Team	Names	Sess1	Sess2	Sess3	Sess4	Sess5	Sess6	Sess7	Sess8	VPs
1	4	England - County	15	15	13	18	16	20	22	19	136
		Stuart Davies,George Bak,Gill Copeland,Steve Blackburn									
2	1	Ireland - Club	15	10	17	20	15	10	22	19	128
		Bearpark									
3	2	England - Club	15	20	13	17	15	15	18	11	124
		Judith Biles,Stephen Pollard,Gill Woodcock,Julia Staniforth									
4	5	Ireland - Officials	13	8	17	12	22	15	8	16	111
		Liam Hanratty,Michael O'Connor,Brenda Kelly,Frank Kelly									
5	6	England - Officials	17	22	15	10	8	16	8	14	110
		Peter Stocken,Sally Bugden,Philip Mason,James Bugden									
6	3	Ireland - County	15	15	15	13	14	14	12	11	109
		Jim Sexton,Jim Doyle,Katherine Lennon,Frank O'Farrell									

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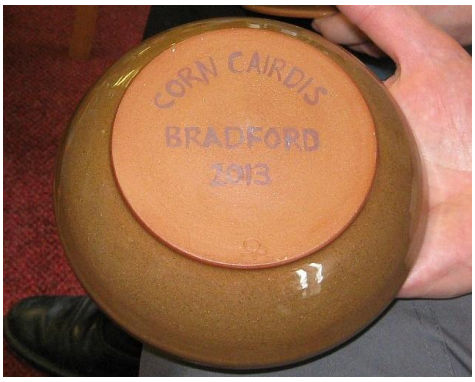
Totals	VPs
England	372
Ireland	348

There was then the presentation of the trophy to Peter Stocken, EBU Team Leader.

Commemoration bowls, featuring the Yorkshire Rose on a green ground, were presented to all players.



Margaret and Elaine were also presented with commemoration bowls.

Donald McLean

THE CORN CAIRDIS MATCH HELD AT BRADFORD AND A LITTLE BIT OF THE HISTORY OF THE CORN CAIRDIS

Elaine van Heel

It was about a year ago that Philip Mason, the Chairman of Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association asked if Bradford Bridge Club would be able to hold the Corn Cairdis this year, on behalf of the YCBA. We are a Club big enough to hold events of this type, so, naturally, we said "Yes". Philip, Phil Godfrey (subsequently changed to Stuart Davies) and I were the "2013 Corn Cairdis Committee". In fact I was on holiday when this was decided and on my return I was told I was on the CC Committee – hmmm……thank you.!
We did have one Committee Meeting at which, I seem to recall, we went briefly through the major points and were allocated our specific roles. Philip was "pulling the strings" because Yorkshire was paying for this event. Stuart's involvement was on the running of the Bridge side and mine was to find Bradford Bridge Club hosts to accommodate the Irish players, Philip and Rob Turner, the Bridge Director; to quote for and organise the meals requested by Yorkshire and generally ensure that Bradford B.C. did its bit in welcoming the guests.

The event is held in alternate years in Ireland and England. We last hosted the event in 1996 when it was double the size it is now, i.e. 24 players each side instead of 12 now. We then had a tour of Bradford Town Hall and a look at the City's Silver and had the celebration dinner at the Midland Hotel. This time we have done all the catering in-house, much smaller scale than 1996, but quite big enough for volunteer members and the facilities we have. Margaret Brayshaw and I have shopped, prepared, cooked etc. for the two lunches and one dinner, very very ably helped by Joyce Carey and Susan Hoyle who did just whatever we asked of them (and I mean that – between them they did jobs such as peeling carrots, slicing onions, shelling hard boiled eggs, endless washing up – even Joyce remarked she had washed up the same chopping board no less than seven times!!

Doing the bit at the dinner where they were front of house "waitressing" and Georgina Wooler who working full time, wonderfully, delivered more home made apple pies than we asked for on Sunday morning (well actually Richard delivered, Georgina made!). Donald McLean came in Saturday and Sunday to take photos. All I will say about Margaret and me is that we had a very long day on the Saturday from 9.30a.m. to around midnight!

John and Pauline Middleton produced a couple of banners which only they and the Irish guests understood – but which I think I was told was "Welcome one thousand times" and if this isn't exact the interpretation is just the same! ("A Hundred Thousand Welcomes" ed)

So that is Bradford's side and now to a bit of history on the Corn Cairdis and for this I quote from Philip Mason's 2013 "Welcome to Bradford and Yorkshire" "I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on how and why the Corn Cairdis came into being. We have to go back to 1951 when the CBAI withdrew from the Camrose competition due to the political situation in Ireland at that time. What followed over subsequent decades is well documented in Seamus Dowling's excellent book "Thank you, partner – the history of bridge in Ireland" in a chapter headed "The long road back to Camrose". The inaugural Corn Cairdis contest was played in Dublin in 1993 and the format in the early years comprised six teams-of-four on each side, namely Open, Womens and Juniors in one band and Officials, County and Club in another. Similar matches followed against Scotland in 1995 and Wales in 1996.
It was hoped that these friendly matches would eventually pave the way to the CBAI being re-admitted to the Camrose series. In 1998 this objective was realised and in December of that year the CBAI defeated Wales in their first Camrose match in over forty seven years.

It was at this point that Scotland and Wales decided not to continue with the friendly matches but England took the view that the Corn Cairdis was unique in so far as it brought club and county players, along with officials from the two countries, into contact with international bridge. Therefore, the annual contest continues, with county, club and official teams from either side participating. Bradford previously hosted the event in 1996 when there were six teams-of-four in each team. I was chairman of Yorkshire at that time and I can say, without fear of contradiction, that it was an occasion which lives long in the memories of all those who took part.

May the Corn Cairdis continue for many more years."

Philip Mason.