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# Minutes of Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Officers of MCBA and Others

***Held on 10th May 2020, 10:30 via Zoom***

Present: Irene Davies (chair), Alan Mould (secretary), Adam Wiseberg, Joy Blakey, Michael Byrne (late), Alec Smalley.

1. Apologies

None.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Not Applicable

1. Matters Arising

Not Applicable

1. EBU email re Universal membership Payments

AS introduced this item concerning the email send to clubs from Gordon Rainsford, CEO of the EBU, stating that all online club games were liable for Universal Membership payments to the EBU. He felt the email could have been better worded.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The conclusions and actions were:

* AM confirmed that MCBA has received no similar email from the EBU.
* MCBA is not running any online events at this time as a county. It is running duplicates as a service to members and restricted to members of MCBA affiliated clubs and guests. These online duplicates are not “official” MCBA events, are not charged for, do not carry master points or contribute to the NGS.
* It is thus MCBA’s view that these events are not MCBA events and no payments to the EBU can be due.
* However, MCBA is aware that the EBU is likely to be in a difficult financial situation (though it is unclear to what extent) and therefore is willing to give a monthly ex-gratia payment to the EBU to support it.
* MCBA would however like to know the EBU’s finances and future plans, particularly as some present felt the EBU is a bloated bureaucracy and has not done enough to trim expenditure in the Covid-19 crisis. AM volunteered to contact Jerry Cope and Ian Payn (EBU treasurer and chair about this).

**Action:** AM to contact Jerry Cope and Ian Payn re EBU finances.

**Action:** JB to consider what sensible monthly payment MCBA might make to the EBU given that the situation is unlikely to change in this calendar year (£100 or £150 pcm were suggested).

* There was no enthusiasm at this stage to charge for the duplicates, though AW and AS felt members would be happy to pay. There was a strong view that if we did charge it should go through BBO, despite whatever administrative difficulties that would bring. We do not know, and are finding it difficult to find out, how much of the income BBO keep for any events.
* There was strong support for continuing the monthly charity events, and charities to support were asked for.
* There was concern expressed that the EBU online events are awarding master points and contributing to the NGS, given that it is impossible to police or stop cheating in online play.

There was a view expressed that MCBA should find a Committee position for Espen Gisvold.

ID asked if she should speak to MBC to try and smooth the path between MBC and the EBU. There was no support for this idea.

1. Possible MCBA BBO Events

The meeting discussed the future of the online events and any “official” MCBA online events.  
  
ID began by thanking AW, AS, and everyone else working on the online events for their huge amount of work and the contribution to MCBA members. This was met with acclaim from the meeting.  
  
AW is maintaining the MCBA bridgewebs website. He has uploaded all county members for whom he has email addresses (over 1000). All online results are on that site.  
  
The Manchester County Online Bridge Service currently has a short constitution and a Committee. AM pointed out that this suggests it is a constituent part of MCBA, when, in fact, it is not. It was agreed that the constitutional position of the Manchester County Online Bridge Service ought to be regularised in due course, the next AGM probably being the appropriate place.  
  
AW suggested running a 7 round Swiss pairs on the date of the MCBA Swiss Teams. JB suggested that the Swiss Pairs could be another charity event. MGB said he felt the date was irrelevant but agreed with the concept.   
It was agreed that AW, AS and the team should develop a 1-day Swiss pairs. There would be no entry fee or prizes, and no master points or NGS ranking.  
  
All agreed that running any online bridge in these times was to be lauded and AW, AS and the team were to be encouraged to develop any ideas. Online events that were not “MCBA County Events” such as the Swiss Teams or pairs, Ben Franks or whatever, the team could develop and run without further reference to the senior officers. Those that were “MCBA County Events” should be developed and brought back to the senior officers, as and when, for approval.   
  
AW pointed out he had run a teams of 8 between Altrincham and Bury the previous morning, which was very well received. AS said he had subsequently received an email suggesting a match between Bury and CHBC.  
  
AM suggested that the position of the two MCBA websites should be looked at together in the fulness of time.  
  
MGB suggested, and the meeting agreed, that we put on the website that senior officers are meeting regularly to discuss matters and anything members would like them to discuss should be forwarded to the secretary.   
Action: AM to contact webmaster about statement on the website that senior officers are meeting regularly.  
  
JB suggested, and the meeting agreed, that we should meet every few weeks, just to check on progress.  
Action: AM to circulate some potential dates and times for next Zoom meeting

1. **A.O.B**

None

Meeting ended 12:30