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**Minutes of the Executive Meeting**

**held on Sunday 5th September 2021 at 11:00 via Zoom**

**Present:** Irene Davies (chair), Alan Mould (secretary), Adam Wiseberg, Joy Blakey, Susan Triggs, Barbara Lewis, Rhona Goldenfield, Roger Hopton (invited for the item on the Goldstone Trophy).

1. **Apologies**

Rodney Lighton, Celia Comrie, Michael Byrne, Rhona Goldenfield (for lateness).

1. **Minutes of the last meeting held 21st June 2021**

Re: 3.3: Larkhill was the club that did the survey that most members wanted to play online, not Brookdale.

Otherwise agreed as a true and correct record.

1. **Matters Arising**

None not agenda items.

1. **Matter Arising from the AGM**

None not agenda items.

1. **Return to Face to Face bridge**
   1. General Discussion

Item 5.9 was taken under 5.1

10 clubs affiliated to MCBA. From online research:

Adam Wiseberg club runs 3 sessions online (average 3-4 tables)

* ABC will run F2F on Tuesday & Thursday and 1 online session (which gets 10-12 tables)
* Ashton run 3 F2F sessions and 3 online (3-4 and 7 tables)
* Besses have moved to F2F only. 2 sessions averaging 7 tables
* B&CHBC has 3F2F and 2 online (3-4 and 7 tables)
* MBC has 9 sessions online averaging 6 tables and 2 F2F sessions (3 tables) and one hybrid (6 tables)
* Marple have put F2F until Jan 2022, 1 online 7 tables
* Stretford have 6 sessions online average 7 tables. Had 3 sessions F2Fso far averaging 2-3 tables
* Trafford went for 3 sessions F2F but have not had good takeup (3 tables or so).
* Prestbury has not met online or F2F since lockdown started.

The summary is that there is a reluctance from our members to play F2F. This is causing difficulty for our clubs.

There are generally far fewer people playing bridge than 2-3 months ago.

There may be a number of people playing social bridge online.

* 1. League (if any further discussion needed)

As of today, the league has 42 entries, AW expects to get to 45, 50 looks unlikely. We decided that the 2021-22 season would be, as far as possible, a “normal” league season. A wide-ranging discussion ensued.

**Agreed:** To defer this back to the League Secretary to do as he sees fit, but try not to have too large a Division 1.

* 1. Higson Cup and Plate

There will be adjustments to the handicap this year. The final will be based on the EBU handicap system but will be fairer to the better teams. AW has persuaded Paul Beckwith to shadow him this year with the hope he will take it over next year.

The Higson Cup will be presented to the winning team at Besses bridge club soon.

Higson Cup has 30 entries (out of 42 League entries).

* 1. Goldstone Trophy (Roger Hopton to be invited for this item)

Default is online but can play F2F if both captains want. The final will be played either F2F or on RealBridge. RH thanked AW and AM for their contributions to the regulations.

There are currently 25 entries to the Goldstone Trophy.

* 1. Intermediate Pairs

A wide-ranging discussion ensued about whether it should be F2F, online, or hybrid.

**Agreed:** To run the event F2F unless nearer the time the numbers show this is unviable.

* 1. Ben Franks

**Agreed:** To make a decision on F2F or online later on. If online, then on RealBridge rather than BBO or other platforms.

* 1. Congress

A discussion ensued, but no one was in favour of running it F2F.

**Agreed:** To run the event online on RealBridge.

**Agreed:** Not to pay the deposit to the V&A for 2022 but to provisionally book for 2023.

**Agreed:** AW to direct.

* 1. Teaching (ST to lead)

ST has contacted all teachers in the MCBA area to see what they will be offering this season. Have put it on the MCBA websites, sent to members of MCBA, U3A organisations and other organisations she is aware of. AW has contacted Tom Dessain about starting a bridge club In Manchester Grammar School.

**Agreed:** To send another flyer to members.

**Agreed:** To check with the teachers in 2 months time as to whether they have had any take up.

* 1. Round up of what clubs are doing and identifying problem areas.

Taken under 5.1

1. **EBU Offer to Unaffiliated Clubs**

AM reported that he had had no response from Jonathan Lillicrop around whether or not the EBU has been firmed up fully yet.

**Action:** AM to re-contact Jonathan Lillicrop about whether the EBU offer has yet been firmed up.

**Action:** Depending on the answer to that, we will look to contact the non-affiliated clubs.

1. **Preparation for the Council Meeting**

**Action:** All officers to get their reports into AM by 7th October.

1. **A. O. B.**

**Action:** RG to send dates of Green Pointed events to CC.

**Action:** RG to book ABC for March 2022 and B&CHBC for July.

1. **Date and Time of next meeting**

Council Meeting 28th October.

Meeting closed: 12:50pm