Minutes of TC Meeting: 8th March 2016

Present: Ann Thornton, Irene Davies, Susan Triggs, Joan Lewis, Rhona Goldenfield, Jeff Smith, Rodney Lighton, Haidee Tattersall, Alan Mould, Jeff Morris, Michael Byrne.

Apologies: Karen Sandler, Barbara Lewis, Bob Cooke.

**CONGRESS:**

I.D. presented a full and comprehensive report.

Outcomes:

* The event made a substantial loss, £850. R.L. proposed and was seconded by H.T. that entry fees be raised to £25 per day with a discount of £5.00 for playing in full event making cost of full congress £45. The votes for and against tied. The chair had the casting vote and the proposal was accepted.
* The Kevin Comrie fees were raised to £8 proposed by J.M. and seconded by R.G.
* I.D. proposed that the Tournament Director (M.A.) make decisions with regard to scoring etc. including a balanced inclusion of teams in the finals. This was carried with 5 in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions.
* The cost of buying a mike will be investigated.
* It was agreed that the allocated meal break, Sat, be kept at discretion of TD to ensure smooth running of event.
* Parking was an issue with several complaints being fielded by officials. R.L. will investigate parking for next year and the difficulties around parking will be highlighted on Congress flyer. S.T. will e-mail novices.
* Intermediate status, Regional Master and below & NGS Jack and below, will be clarified and included on Congress leaflet.
* B.L. reported that all seemed to go well, but very disappointing that we did not get accounts immediately afterwards...do we have them now? - I would like to see them.
* B.L. was happy to use Jeff Smith's spreadsheet for income and prizes and sort out prize money separately from the entry fees etc.
* Jeff Morris gave us £100 for junior prize.

**GAZETTE CUP:**

Gazette was discussed at length...with the conclusion that it had been a great success having 10 teams entered. It is difficult to ever police the integrity of a team’s players since eligibility is only defined for the Garden Cities and the MCBA have not any strict criteria laid down other than the loose term of ‘bona fide’ players.

* There was some discussion around eligibility. A.T. stated that in order to keep the Stretford entry she invited a player from another club to substitute. This decision was made early Sunday morning, on the day of the event, after several phone calls between A.T. Stretford and I.D.
* Stretford club represented at the event for the first time.
* TC felt it was better to leave the eligibility criteria as "bona Fide" members of a club and to leave the responsibility of policing this criterion to the individual clubs. TC doesn't want to create any more barriers to teams’ entries into the competition.
* It was decided that on balance despite some ‘moans’ it would be prudent to continue to use Daphne for refreshments.

**CANTOR CUP:**

B.L. reported that the event was very well attended with MBC and J.M. in particular to be congratulated on getting the players there, almost all newcomers including 8 students (half price). The TC extends thanks to B.L. for her efforts in making the event so successful. This is very encouraging for the future.
A.T. reported that after conversation with Martin Canto (M.C.) it was obvious that the Cantor family want to continue to support the event and keep the Cantor name.

* M.C. would like to see £6,000 invested to sustain the event over the foreseeable future. The TC felt that such an investment would not yield the necessary funding. A.T. will ask colleagues to investigate investment potential of £6,000.
* A.T. will work with J.M. and I.D. to report outcomes to M.C.
* B.L. reported that there were 12 tables almost all from MBC. No one from out of area, one pair from Ashton and rest local.
* B.L. that his went well with 12 tables, mainly recruited from MBC (mailing to other counties was a waste of time/money). After talking to Jeff and Dave and others B.L. would be optimistic about getting numbers in future years and so would support keeping this event for newcomers -as it is the only one for newcomers on the MCBA calendar (the 2 one session events at the Congress attract quite a few Intermediates).
* B.L: talking briefly to Martin Cantor on Sunday I think that the Cantor family will continue to support it.
* Entry fee rise for this event starts in the summer.
* B.L: The Cantors need to know that MCBA cannot earn any interest on £6000 so it would be a donation to spend over a number of years to support one or more events. How about trying to keep it fluid - the Cantor Cup (£160) and any other events/seminars etc. for newcomers.   It would still take many years to spend.
* After some discussion the TC agreed that the money continue to be used for the Cantor Cup event only.
* I think that MCBA needs to be careful before signing anything with the Cantors.
* I believe that we are increasing Cantor Cup and Int Pairs to £8 - starting when? A.T. I’m not sure we addressed this.

**HIGSON CUP:**

It was proposed by J.S. and seconded by H.T. that vugraph commentary for this event cease due to administrative overheads and costs. The motion was carried by 8 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.

**AOB:**

Entry fee rise for Intermediate pairs starts in the summer.

J.M. asked the TC to consider holding one of the Intermediate pointed events at MBC. J.M. left the meeting while TC considered the proposal. Outcomes:

* A new event, Intermediate teams, to be held at MBC proposed by S.T. and seconded by I.D. The motion was carried.
* The event will take place in the spring, 2017.
* Once the date is confirmed, S.T. will promote the event.

H.T. asked the TC to define her role as Treasurer with regard to preparing accounts. A.T. confirmed that she did Ben Franks and Gazette Cup, R.G. Green Point Events, and B.L. the Intermediate events and Cantor Cup. H.T. is indeed responsible for Congress accounts.

Thank you to all members of the TC for their contribution and for bringing perspective to the meeting. The meeting closed at 4.15pm. The next date for TC meeting will be decided at Council, 4th April.

A.T.

9/03/2016