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# Minutes of the Executive of MCBA Held on 7th June 2020, 11:00 via Zoom

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

Alec Smalley was invited to the Executive meeting.

1. Apologies

Karen Sandler.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting on 24th May 2020

Accepted as a true and correct record.

1. Matters Arising from Meeting on 24th May 2020 which are not Agenda Items

Re 4: Minutes say we would not award masterpoints and NGS. However, we subsequently decided we would award masterpoints.

Re 5: The situation between MBC and the EBU seems to be being resolved amicably. Some clubs (none remaining in Manchester) are refusing to pay UMS. There is apparently a motion of no confidence in the EBU Executive going around the shareholders.

1. MCBA Virtual Club Week 1 Feedback

ID tried to contact some of the MCBA clubs this week.

* Contacted Ashton who have set up a virtual club and also have online teaching.
* Spoke to Trafford who think about 12 playing on Bridge Club Live and some on MCBA. Have closed their teaching programme however.
* Emailed Marple and Bramhall Green but they never got back to you.
* No details for Prestbury.

**Action:** AM to send ID contact details for Prestbury. Complete

* AW spoke to Harry Gohil from Marple. Suggested they would be better joining MCBA club as they have only a small number of tables anyway. It is not easy to play and direct. ID felt it was better for clubs to set up virtual clubs if they could as it would encourage more people to play in “their own” club and keep them when F2F bridge returned. It might lose money but more likely to engage members and keep them for when it goes back to F2F bridge.
* Ashton have so far run two sessions of 7 and 9 tables. AW is doing an online session just for ABC a week on Saturday, AS is doing the same for CHBC. It was suggested that perhaps Marple or Larkhill could join in with the ABC session. AS was not keen on this as it dilutes the “club” idea.

AS & AW reported back on week 1 of the MCBA.

Ran 7 sessions (4 in previous weeks). Added Tuesday & Thursday evening at 8pm and experts only session on Weds afternoon. Excluded jacks from non-experts. In the 3 extra sessions we got 7, 7, and 8 tables. OK for first run. Expect they will go over 10 this week. Had 93 tables this week, which is the highest ever, though spread across more sessions. MCBA will get about £5/table so around £160 to MCBA/week after deduction of BBO fees, UMS and payment to directors of £40/session.

The main thing now is to get the number of people playing up. 153 played in main events (not non-expert events) so probably had about 170 played this week. 411 on database but around 40% have never played. 249 people have played of which 219 are MCBA members.

MCBA has just under 1,400 members. This is just MCBA players. The online events have always taken in non-EBU members. Plan is to bring them into the EBU via ABC, CHBC or Besses as appropriate. AW has done a deal that ABC and CHBC that they will include them on their memberships databases. MCBA is not a club and therefore cannot submit members. There were discussions between Larkhill and the EBU to join the EBU but decided there were insufficient positives for them. This way some Larkhill members may become EBU members.

AS showed two spreadsheets, the first on MCBA tables per week and the second on what is available via MCBA and EBU and also friendlies. Plus, there is a lot of international bridge. The challenge is to encourage people playing friendlies online into duplicates. ID reiterated that she felt club duplicates for specific clubs is the way forward. AW pointed out it needs online directors which need IT skills, and there are very few in clubs who have the skills and the willingness to do it.

AW raised the matter of the ad hoc online Committee. The Committee is AW, AS, Dave Tilley, Espen Gisvold, Victor Ridding and Dave Tilley, all of which are prepared to continue. JB volunteered to join the Committee, both as MCBA treasurer and user. ID also volunteered to join. The Committee makes decisions as to what sessions can run, when type and when etc.

Dave Tilley has been very helpful and proactive in getting online bridge in Stretford set up. He is interested in being involved more in MCBA matters. It was suggested that we offer him the post of Tournament Secretary. This was agreed.

**Action:** AW to discuss post of Tournament Secretary with Dave Tilley. Complete.

The Executive welcomed Boris the Cat to the meeting.

ID asked AW to summarise what the MCBA sessions would be going forward

1. We will continue with the same number of sessions for at least this month.
2. Unclocked sessions. AW sent out a survey this week and the responses were about 50-50. So will run clocked/unclocked on alternate weeks for experts on Wednesday and all unclocked on Thursday evening. Others will all be clocked.
3. Non-experts were 50-50 on clocked/unclocked so sessions will run clocked/unclocked on alternative weeks.
4. Survey on number of boards done – huge majority in favour of 20+ boards. Non-experts number of boards survey so far not conclusive.
5. There is the intention to hold an event on the GP teams date. Not viable to hold it as a teams event. Discussion as to whether this should be blue pointed, or green pointed or whatever. Discussion to take place in online committee on the proposal.
6. Nicolas Greer is not interested in being a director.

The EBU Hackathon is looking at a platform like zoom to play bridge online where everyone is on camera all the time. It might mean that F2F bridge could be played with tablets.

1. League and Higson Cup

Very few online league matches have been played and Executive members reported that they had had no interest in matches being played online.

After considerable debate and various proposals, it was decided that:

* The MCBA League will formally finish on Saturday 11th July with all remaining matches determined by a variant of the Mould formula for defaulted matches.
* The Higson Cup and plate will be left in abeyance

**Action:** AM to write a draft email for AW to send out. Complete

It was decided that we could continue the Goldstone online if possible, but this would require teams to be willing to play the matches.

AW spoke to his proposal for an online league.
A “season” would last 1-2 months with promotions and regulations. Then have another season etc. Would need at least 15-18 teams to make it viable.
The Executive agreed it was a good idea.

**Action:** AW to advertise the online league.

1. **MCBA Virtual AGM**

All agreed that a virtual AGM would be a good idea. Wednesday 29th July, 7:00pm was agreed as the date. It was agreed that AM would be the host and the default position would be everyone’s microphone would be muted by the host.

**Action:** AM to publicise date of virtual AGM, and ask for motions and reports from officers. Complete

1. **A.O.B**

MGB raised the issue of the interviews on the MCBA website. One from Jeff Smith has received a letter of complaint from Bernard Kaye. Agreed that the offending comment would be taken down.

MBC have asked if we can avoid clashing MBCA events with MBC online events. AW has run survey showing that evening events should probably start at 7:30pm rather than 8:00pm. Other than that, MCBA saw no need to alter events.

Joan Lewis has been asked to do the boards for the Presidents Cup.

**Action:** AW to speak to her and ensure she is charging suitably. Complete

The NBL has now been cancelled. JB is to get the money back from Stuart Davies. It is unclear on what basis the meeting to cancel the NBL took place. MCBA had no details of it.

**Action:** JB to seek refund of NBL fees from Stuart Davies. Complete

St. Peters Assembly Rooms have refunded for the Intermediate pairs. It was agreed that JB will try and get all the money back from St. Peters Assembly Rooms.

**Action:** JB to seek refunds from St. Peters Assembly rooms

It was agreed that the next meeting will be on 12th July 11:00am via zoom.

Meeting ended 13:10