****

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting**

**held on Sunday 25th October 2020 at 11:00am via Zoom**

**Present:** Irene Davies (chair), Alan Mould (secretary), Adam Wiseberg, Joy Blakey, Rhona Goldenfield, Dave Tilley, Alec Smalley, Rodney Lighton, Susan Triggs.

1. **Apologies**

Michael Byrne.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting held 6th September 2020**

Accepted as a true and correct record.

1. **Matters Arising**

Re 6: **Action:** ID to convene a meeting of interested of interested teachers and mentors to consider the next steps.

ID reported that a publicity campaign and Facebook advert had been run. Online sessions to upskill teachers had been arranged. Trained 8 teachers to use BBO. A number of the older teachers declined the offer. About 12 teachers now teaching in Manchester. Sent out requests to contacts for people who wanted to learn to play bridge. 58 joined so far. Divided up the 58 between the teachers who had been trained. Almost half were people who were already being taught but had had lessons stopped by Covid-19. 13 from ABC and 11 from TBC.

What we do going forward is (a) another publicity push (b) EBED training and (c) move to RealBridge.

ST reported that she can take something forward with U3A (ST). We are getting beginners from out of the area as well. Facebook publicity was not particularly successful – seems to be more word of mouth.

AW – what would be useful is for AM or AW to add these people to the Bridgewebs database.

**Action:** ID to email list to AW.

DT reported that they had 6-7 tables at the beginners lessons and about 30 on the zoom lessons at Thursday am. DT is about to put a set of lessons together.

RL reported that the information on the website is almost all about F2F teachers. Can something be given for the website please.

**Action:** ID and ST to give information to RL for website.

AW reported that RealBridge will shortly have the ability for a teacher to talk to the whole class. This would be very valuable.

ID felt that we should arrange sessions for intermediate sessions to have a zoom feedback session. It was suggested that we ask MGB to do this for payment.

**Action:** ID to consult with MGB about this.

ID and ST were thanked by the Executive for their hard work and success in moving beginners forwards.

Re 8: **Action:** AM to invite ST, As and RL to future Executive meetings

Due to an oversight AS and RL were invited, but ST was not.

**Action:** AW and AM to apologise to ST. Complete

All other actions are either agenda items or have been overtaken by events.

1. **Online Ben Franks and Congress**

36 tables for online Swiss teams. Good strength of field. Went down well with most people. Much easier to run it online than F2F – much less work. Price was £10 (12BBO$) and we still made about £220.

As a result, AW thinks we should run the Congress online. The meeting agreed.

The plan would be to run the Sunday at least on RealBridge. Run a jack high as well etc.

Play as near as we can to the F2F format.

Decided that we would not give prizes.

Decided we would have it on 2nd - 3rd January 2021.

**Action:** RG to ask Dermot if he can TD the congress.

AS offered to TD the Saturday jack high pairs.

Ben Franks

We should be making plans to run the Ben Franks online. There is no prospect of it F2F.

Decided to run it on the date as it would be F2F (Sunday 6th December, 11:00am). No kibitzers. Use as qualifier for the Corwen (if it happens).

It was decided that initially it would be advertised to MCBA and other NorthWest counties.

Higson Cup

AW feels it is completely realistic to run a Higson Cup final on RealBridge. Can ask teams that are in final round to play on BBO and then have the two finals on RealBridge. Have the final in April 2021. The matches have to be played online or defaulted.

**Action:** AW to inform teams of the new arrangements for the Higson Cup and Plate

Goldstone Trophy 2020

We will finish the event and insist that teams play online or default.

Goldstone 2021

**Action:** Roger Hopton to be consulted about whether he wants to run a 2020-2021 Goldstone Trophy and also about the arrangements for the 2020 Goldstone conclusion.

Cantor Cup

**Action:** Online Committee to look into option for two different “Cantor Cups”.

1. **Progress with Virtual Clubs**

Have now got Trafford on board. Thanks to AS, AW and Espen Gisvold for getting that sorted out. All MCBA EBU clubs apart from Prestbury now have online sessions, from 5 a week at Ashton to 1 at Trafford. The big bugbear is training directors.

So… should MCBA be running online bridge? Online committee has decided to drop the Tuesday online Swiss. Monday and Friday events still have 10+ tables. Non-expert is a service we are providing which clubs are not. Sunday night event does not clash with any other events, so continue for another month. MBC feel very strongly that MCBA should not be providing online sessions. However, there has been no other negative feedback from any other affiliated club, and some club (eg Besses) have many players in MCBA online sessions. AW pointed out that we hardly get any MBC players at our events. ID feels we should be “withering” away our events because clubs should be up and running. RL points out that our constitution is to “promote bridge in Manchester”. It was decided to continue to review the events through the online committee.

1. **Lessons for New Learners Update (ID)**

Dealt with under Matters Arising.

1. **Proposal to Rebate to Clubs the 7p UMS for Online Sessions (AW)**

As the county has no expenses and no outgoings we do not need the 7p UMS from clubs for online sessions. The loss in income would be about £250pcm. Decided to do this.

**Action:** JB to contact the EBU to ask if our UMS can be set to 0.

**Action:** JB to do the necessary calculations from 1st May.

1. **EBU Proposals on Changes to UMS**

It was agreed that we think proposals B and C equal, D third, not A. EBU needs sufficient income.

**Action:** AM to respond to EBU request. Complete.

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

EBU AGM papers.

There are nomination papers for 3 EBU directors, 2 on L&E, 2 on SC.

We do not wish to nominate anyone.

1. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

To be decided.

Meeting ended at 13:17