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**Minutes of the Executive Meeting**

**held on Sunday 31st January 2021 at 11:00am via Zoom**

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

1. **Apologies**

Rhona Goldenfield.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting held 5th December 2020**

Accepted as a true and correct record.

1. **Matters Arising**
   1. Re 3: **Action:** Online Committee to look into option for two different “Cantor Cups”.

No progress to date.

**Action:** DT to organise the Cantor Cup on 27th February. JB to support DT

**Action:** Martin Cantor to be informed

**Action:** Lancashire & M&CBA to be informed

**Action:** JB to talk to Espen Gisvold re an online poster

**Agreed:** 11:00am start and £5 entry per player which also covers a Michael’s clinic in the afternoon.

* 1. Re 6: **Action:** AM to check with the EBU about the position re MBCA UMS payments.

Complete

* 1. Re 6: **Action:** JB to contact DT re the position with the joint club concerning SBC, Warrington, Brierfield, and Chorley.

Complete

* 1. Re 6: **Action:** AM to send JB the details of the contact for each club.

Complete

* 1. Re 6: **Agreed:** Repay to clubs MCBA UMS paid by clubs since lockdown started

Complete

* 1. Re 6: **Agreed:** To cease UMS payments to MCBA from 1st November 2020

Complete

1. **Report from the Online Committee (AW)**

AW reported that there was little other than that reported previously. Sessions on Monday pm MPs, Weds am for improvers and Friday pm imps. Have dropped Sunday as were not getting the tables. Monday and Friday 8-10 tables, non-experts about 7 tables.

There is a need to improve the publicity about Michael’s clinics.

**Agreed:** Hold a Michael clinic in the afternoon at 2:30pm after the Cantor Cup.

1. **Donation to the EBU (AM)**

**Agreed:** To send the EBU £1,000 donation.

1. **Gazette Trophy (ID)**

Have 11 definite teams but the number is still in flux. SBC will be putting in a team.

**Agreed:** Deadline for entries of Wednesday 3rd February, 23:59, including names.

**Action:** ID & AW to chase entries and names.

1. **Return to F2F Bridge**

The vaccine rollout seems to be going to plan. If things gradually ease in the summer, what is the plan to return to F2F bridge? What will be our first event to run?

The Executive had a wide-ranging discussion, but without reaching any firm conclusions. It was suggested that we might be able to run the July Swiss teams F2F, but that would have to wait until nearer the time. It was suggested a big celebration event in September or perhaps even at the January Congress might be possible. It was suggested that people would not come back to clubs until they felt safe and that was when (a) the majority of the population had been vaccinated and (b) the infection rate was very much lower.

A discussion could play around the issues of online bridge after F2F returns and whether we should insist that, for example, league matches are played F2F or whether matches should be allowed to play online. This reached no firm conclusion though the majority of the Executive were in favour of allowing online to continue in some form. Similarly, the issue of hybrid events (where some play F2F and some online) was discussed, again with no conclusion. If online continues should we insist that RealBridge is used rather than BBO. The advantages of RealBridge are that it is much more social and much harder to cheat, whereas the advantages of BBO are that it is much more familiar to people now and requires much less bandwidth. Again, no conclusion.

**Agree**d: The Executive could decide nothing concrete now

**Agreed:** To put this item on the agenda for the Council meeting on March 9th.

**Action:** ST offered to circulate a brief questionnaire on people’s views on what they will do when F2F returns. The Committee agreed to this and thanked ST in advance for her efforts.

1. **Preparations for Council Meeting on Tuesday 9th March**

Zoom meeting. Reports to be in by 23rd February.

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

9.1 MCBA has received a request to second motions to an EGM of the EBU, the motions being (a) to overturn the recent changes to the disciplinary procedures voted through at the last AGM and (b) a vote of no confidence in the OEIG.

The Executive determined that it would not be seconding either motion or supporting them at any EGM (if it happens). The major grounds being (a) it was far too soon to be revisiting this issue and it had passed comfortably at the AGM and (b) the OEIG put in a great deal of hard work and the Executive had every confidence in them.

**Action:** AM to write back and say MCBA is not supporting this EGM or seconding the motions

9.2 Charity event made £492 this week. JB asking for approval to make this up to £600. **Agreed**

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

To be arranged.

Meeting ended at 12:30