**Report of Selection Committee to Council November 17th 2022**

At the AGM in May this year two members of the selection committee (Michael Byrne and Rhona Goldenfield) said that they did not wish to stand again. Two new members therefore stood in their place (Catherine Draper and Rodney Lighton) who together with the three remaining members (Adam Wiseberg, Roger Hopton, and John Roberts) were elected unopposed. Since the AGM the Committee has continued to conduct business mainly by Zoom conference meetings and email exchanges. At its first Meeting since the AGM on 27th July 2022 Adam Wiseberg and John Roberts were re-elected unopposed as Chairman and Secretary respectively.

At the AGM, Adam Wiseberg was also elected in a narrow vote as Match Secretary. This meant that the work of the Match Secretary would now be done within the Selection Committee. The committee spent some time at its first meeting discussing the way that this should work.

The other main subject occupying the committee since May has been that of the dwindling numbers of players making themselves available for County events, particularly from the A Pool of players. Various reasons were considered by the Committee. Clearly the age distribution of the Manchester players was a factor and the shortage of younger people taking up the game. But other factors were also involved. It was felt that the Bridgeweb system of asking for availability might be misunderstood by some players and not thought of as a personal invitation. Personal contact by phone or email might work better. Some changes have been made to this as a result. There was also a feeling that there was less enthusiasm for on-line competition particularly on RealBridge because of technical and other issues associated with the Platform. The Committee also formed the impression that, in the case of F2F, players were put off by long journeys. The Committee also thought that Summer events such as the NBL and Presidents Cup were generally less attractive because of competing seasonal commitments.

Adam Wiseberg has set up a OneDrive file storage data base for the Selection Committee. All reports, selection decisions, minutes and agendas etc are now stored there securely for reference purposes. All Committee members have access to the drive and have familiarised themselves it.

The main selection issues dealt with since the last Council meeting have been the following Inter-County events :

***Northern Bridge League***

Selections were made for NBL. Matches were played on four Saturdays in the summer and autumn of this year. Matches were held on-line on the RealBridge platform and the Committee met several times to make selections. Reports of individual matches are available on the on MCBA web site

Manchester won both the A and B Divisions and finished 4th in the C Division. As a result teams from the A and B pool will be selected next year to play in the Inter-County National Super-Finals next year.

***Presidents Cup***

The committee selected two teams of 8 for the Presidents Cup which was held on-line on 16/17 July 2022 on the RealBridge Platform.

The Manchester B Team performed well to finish third of 10 teams after sharing the lead at the end of the first day. The Manchester A team were a little disappointing finishing in 6th position.

Details of the event can be found on the MCBA website.

***Tollemache Qualifier***

The committee selected a team for the Tollemache Qualifier. The event will be played on-line on the Realbridge platform on the weekend of Nov 12th / 13th Nov. 2022. The selected pairs were :

Holland/Hassett

Byrne/Smalley

Draper/Woodcock

Lighton/Mould

The results of the qualifier will be known by the time of the Council meeting. The final, if the team qualifies, will be held face to face on February 18th / 19th Feb 2023 in Stratford.