**Tournament Committee minutes Tuesday 5th September**

**Present**: Irene Davies (Chair), Jeff Smith, Kevin Comrie, Barbara Lewis, Rodney Lighton, Jeff Morris, Rhona Goldenfield, John Roberts, Joan Lewis (part), Susan Triggs

**Apologies**: Ann Thornton , Michael Byrne, Alan Mould.

**1. Green Point Events - Tournament Director issues**

At the last Green Point Teams event there was a problem with the duplimated boards. Whilst the initial problem was not the fault of the Tournament Director, how he dealt with the problem didn't help the situation and led to some complaints from players. After much discussion it was agreed to change the TD for future events and to ask Rob Dixon to direct. As Rob directs the Michelle Brunner event, which usually takes place on the same week-end as the GP teams this works out well.

It was noted that Neil Morley is moving back to the North West and may be available to direct. Irene confirmed Neil will be TD at congress with Rob assisting.

Jeff Morris mentioned that 3 students had recently passed their Directors course (2 with distinction) and we should be giving them experience of directing at a county level. It was suggested to ask Henry/Rocky to help Joan Lewis run the Intermediate Pairs events.

Actions:

i) agreed Rhona would write a letter to DS to say it was a decision of the Tournament Committee that we would not be asking him to direct GP events in future.

ii) It was also agreed to reduce the entry fee by £2 per player for the next GP teams for those who played in the 2017 GP teams event .

iii) Rob Dixon will be named as TD on flyers for future GP events

iv) Joan Lewis to be paid £75 for directing Intermediate events in future.

**2. Rectification period for all MCBA organised events**

This became an issue at the Intermediate Swiss Pairs event held in April when a score was incorrectly entered and agreed in the 4th round of a 5 round event. There were no clear county guidelines about a rectification period which caused some bad feeling after the event. In the discussion it became clear that nationally a range of different rectification periods exist.

Actions:

i) in all MCBA organised events (inc Intermediate) it will be a requirement that the lead card is recorded on the bridgemate - which should resolve the issue of inputting the wrong declarer

ii) we will not produce score slips for Intermediate events but will at Congress, Green point events and for Ben Franks. Players will be asked to check the slips during the event and then the final round scores will be put out on a table at the end of the event and players will be given 15 minutes to check all result slips. At congress this will be extended to 30 mins. These rectification periods will be published on the County website and on flyers for each event. The TD needs to have producing the scores as a priority in the last round and may need to be given assistance to achieve this.

**3. Congress - Organisation**

Irene confirmed Congress would be taking place on 6th/7th January at the same venue (Victoria & Albert). Initial posters and flyers have been produced and were circulated. Irene agreed to send an electronic version when available to Rodney.

Irene submitted an action plan for discussion (attached )

The main alterations:

* Larkhill to provide the equipment for the Non-Expert events
* Duplimating of the 420 boards required - Irene to contact Neil Morley to see if he can do this for us, if not, to then try Lancashire
* Alec Smalley and Barbara Lewis sort out prize money using the formula devised by Jeff Smith
* Assistant Directors – Joan/Gordon needed on Sunday because of the three sections for the teams
* Irene to check whether Neil Morley's wife will be assisting him.
* Timings confirmed by Irene. Saturday 1pm - 4pm & 6pm - 9.30pm Sunday 11.00 am – 2.30pm & 3.15pm- 6.30pm.
* Peter (Treasurer) to provide float (mainly with one pound coins) for Non-Expert events because of £8 entry fee. No float needed for main events
* Quiz - to continue for 2018 but if entries do not increase this time, Michael and Raymond to be asked to cover all costs if they wish to continue with the quizzes
* Jeff Morris will approach Andy Burnham firstly and then Lucy Powell to ask them to open Congress
* Irene to ask Annie Curtis to produce inserts for non-expert events

**4. Congress - Sponsorship**

The Reich Insurance Group had contacted Altrincham Bridge Club to find out if they had any events which they could contact. Joan Lewis replied saying that ABC didn't but that the MCBA Congress may provide a more suitable opportunity. Reich Insurance expressed interest in taking this forward and asked Joan to submit a proposal. After discussion, it was agreed that John Roberts would take this forward and submit a proposal to Reich Insurance asking them to provide the prize money for the next Congress (approx £1500) in return for the opportunity to put up posters and leave leaflets on tables. We could also add their name to any flyers produced in future for Congress~~.~~

**5. Dates of Next MCBA events**

Intermediate Pairs 5th November

Ben Franks 3rd December

Congress 6th/7th January

Gazette Cup 4th February

Cantor Cup 25th February

GP Pairs 3rd March

Intermediate Swiss Pairs 8th April

Higson Cup & Plate 29th April

Green Point Teams 22nd July

**6. AOB**

i) Irene asked the Committee to consider allowing the winners of Intermediate Pairs events to have free entry into Green Point or similar events to encourage them to move on to playing at other events.

After discussion it was agreed to give free entry to Ben Franks to the winners of the Autumn Intermediate Pairs and the Swiss and Spring Intermediate events to the Congress Pairs

ii) The issues of the new laws was raised. It was suggested that Mike Rothwell should be contacted to carry out a training session for appropriate people which the county would pay for. This could take place early in the new year.

**7. Next Meeting Council Meeting on Tuesday 7th November 2017 (time tbc)**