



Child and vulnerable person policy and the EBU

The EBU has high standards in their child and vulnerable people policies. However, they recognise that all Tournament Directors (TDs), counties and clubs throughout the country affiliated to the EBU might not have read or be fully aware of the policies.

We have therefore come up with a strategy to disseminate the key basics to all our TDs.

We have put in place the following plan:

EBU Congresses in England:

Once a year there will be a zoom meeting for all EBU TDs (lasting 10 minutes) to run through the guidelines of the policies. A designated child protection officer, who has a current DBS certificate, will be identified at each congress. They will be named and identify themselves to the bridge players there. The phone number of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for that area will be displayed around the room and people reminded to report any concerns to the designated officer.

Overseas Congresses:

Arena Travel has a vulnerable person's policy which all their hosts have to follow. They also have a designated LADO, so this is handled by Arena.

County run Congresses:

The EBU will have meetings with all the counties and say that the expected format is that they have a known designated lead for protection and their name and that of the LADO is displayed throughout the congress.

Individual bridge clubs:

County representatives are expected to hold a zoom meeting once a year for all their club representatives to spend 20 minutes going through safeguarding. (Yes, you might all know it from last year but this is what all teachers and care workers have to do each year.)

Club representatives then remind their TD team and to make it easy we have a simple card which is given to all directors with a few bullet points and the phone number of the LADO in that area.

The phone number of the LADO should be available in each club and if children are playing the designated lead should be made known to all.

If any member observes behaviour which makes them uneasy, they tell the TD. This information is given to the safeguarding officer of the EBU and added to a confidential file. If it is observed that a particular name appears several times, then further enquiries are made.

If there is a situation in a club or congress where a person convicted of, or awaiting sentence for offences against children, wants to play then the NSPPC or the police are contacted for advice. The EBU then adheres to that advice and there is no comeback on the EBU for the action taken.

This may seem like a sledge-hammer to crack a nut but you only have to read accounts in the papers to know of the effect such behaviour has on a person's life for many years to come.

One incident which is reported in the press could be catastrophic for youth bridge.

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