

from members of the committee and teachers to assist the players. No director would be required.

- It was agreed that training for Division C of the Met Cup was not viable.
- It was agreed to keep the start time of the GP event at noon.
- It was agreed that clubs who ask the County to advertise Blue Point events for them should reciprocate by putting Surrey events on their calendar. Failure to do this may result in the County refusing to advertise their events on the website. Trevor will write to the relevant clubs.

Trevor

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The budget which Thomas had compiled showed a projected shortfall for the financial year 2020/21 of -£1090 compared with a projected surplus of £106 in the current year. The budget for 2020-21 was accepted by the committee.

Thomas was thanked for his work in producing these figures.

6. MATCHES REPORT

Jeffrey reported that the Tollemache team qualified for the final next weekend.

He mentioned that YC had increased their rates for hosting matches – Shirley said that Gad Chadha has offered Wimbledon as a base for matches at a cost of £90.

He congratulated Selsdon on winning the teams of 8, and thus representing Surrey at the Garden Cities regional final.

Jeffrey had had a conversation with a very talented junior player who is keen to represent Surrey at the Metropolitan Cup and other events. He has asked the EBU to change his County of Primary Allegiance to Surrey, and this has now been actioned.

[Subsequent to the meeting, he has been selected to play a couple of matches for the Surrey Orange team in the Homes Counties League.]

7. YOUTH BRIDGE

Tim W thanked Bookham Bridge Club for the very generous donation of £804.40 which the club had donated for Youth Bridge in the County.

Tim W reported there have been 108 entries for the School's Cup which is an increase from 52 last year. Roehampton had increased the hire cost of the room by £100 this year.

Some of Bookham's generous donation was used for printing certificates, but the plan is to revert to the previous arrangement for 2021. Meena mentioned contacting Lisa Miller at EBED to ask for suggestions for printing which would be cheaper.

Trevor thanked Tim for transforming this event into a major part of the schools' calendar.

Tim reported that sadly Claremont Fancourt School were no longer teaching bridge.

8. COMMUNICATIONS SUB COMMITTEE

Suleman said that he had been told that many club players thought the County was of no interest to them, nor did they know how it related to them.

Suleman had three suggestions to help raise the profile of the County with less experienced players.

These were:

- Having an award for the greatest improvement in NGS over one year by club. This would begin no higher than NGS<9.
- Having an award for the person (not a committee member) who has contributed most to a bridge club. This would be similar to the Dimmie Fleming award for work for the County.
- Separate the Victor Ludorum into Under 25's and others.

These suggestions were discussed and it was agreed that:

- We would have an award to most improved NGS over the year where the final NGS is 'Mature'
- Rather than initiate a whole award process similar to that of the EBU individual committee members should be on the lookout for people that are seen to be supporting the activities of the Association.
- The Victor Ludorum currently identifies Junior members, but currently there is only one.

9. NEW PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

With the absence of anyone who wished to take on the role of President, Trevor had proposed that the role was abolished at the next AGM. The appointment of a President is in the Constitution.

Trevor reminded the meeting that under the constitution he had to stand down as Chairman at the AGM after 5 years. He mentioned a couple of names of people he thought would be suitable. He will follow these up.

The committee said that Trevor had been an outstanding Chairman with clubs mentioning the good work he had done unprompted. He has shown drive and commitment to the County which will be hard for anyone else to emulate.

After some persuasion Trevor agreed to be put forward for election as President at the AGM, but said that he would not continue with the responsibilities of Chairman and hoped that a suitable replacement will come forward.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jeffrey mentioned that a query had been raised about whether or not the County should be paying Corporation Tax.

Jeffrey explained that as the Association does not seek to make a profit, it is not liable to tax on its general activities with members. In theory external income such as bank interest can be liable to tax, although it was not known whether tax was still being deducted at source on bank interest, or if the Association had obtained an exemption from HMRC in the past on the basis of the overall level of such income being below a 'de minimis' limit.

It was decided to ask the new Treasurer to investigate.

John mentioned that the old website was still appearing on search engines.

[Following the meeting it was agreed that John should initiate the purchase of the domain name surreycountybridge.org.uk when it expires on 24th February, and delete its contents. The purchase will cost £11.88.]

NEXT MEETING - Thursday 23rd April

Trevor

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