

**A**ssociated **B**ridge **C**lubs of **D**rogheda

15-July-2020

Re: Play re-commencement

Dear Members,

As you may be aware ABCD are currently involved with the CBAI with regards trying to get 'live' Bridge back in some format over the coming months. The current hope is that we may get some clearance from the Government on what return conditions may be over the coming weeks. In advance of this we are in the process of getting 25 Table Perspex screens manufactured to go along with other Covid protection requirements currently in place.

We met with Seamus Costello our Regional Secretary and also Paul Porteous of the CBAI, Paul says they are going with the assumption that Clubs will start resuming membership from September. To this end the CBAI is developing a Risk Assessment which will be carried out by each club and ABCD have had an input into its format and requirements. This assessment will determine along with Government recommendations the conditions required for a return to play and in advance the ABCD Centre will be set up to comply with these recommendations. When finalised this information will be forwarded to all our clubs. Currently as a minimum there will be table screens, hand sanitizer, temperature checks, personal bidding boxes, Mitchell Movements only, boards cannot be re-used for 72 hours, hall extraction fans to be used, along with a number of other requirements designed to mitigate the risks of transmission. The onus will however be on the player to ensure they are comfortable returning to play bridge and must for the sake of others not play if they feel there is the slightest risk that they have the virus or have been in contact with someone who has the virus.

If play does recommence, we have written to the different club committees suggesting that as membership will more likely be down that ABCD run open nights with a maximum number of tables determined by the return condition. These open nights would increase the possible number of tables playing over what a club by themselves might attract. The benefit of this approach is that ABCD would get a better income on table money which is required as we still have a sizeable mortgage to repay, with no income since March.

The details would have to be finalised but may be along the lines that on each given night, members of the Club normally associated with playing on that night will be given priority positions with the remainder filled by players seeking a game. If requests to play are above the limited numbers available we would let players play on a rotational basis each night to give everyone a fair chance to get a game.

Many Thanks for your support and hopefully we can get back playing over the next couple of months.

Yours Sincerely

ABCD Committee