Dublin South Region Update

September 2020

As you know we held our annual Presidents meeting with the regions clubs on Friday 25th September all be it remotely via zoom.

We have more than 20 clubs represented & it was great to see & hear from everyone.

Following on from that we are sending this update to all clubs.

**2020 AGM**

Our AGM due to be held last May couldn’t take place due to lockdown & after much debate the Committee decided against trying to hold it via Zoom, instead we like other regions have followed the lead of the CBAI cancelling the AGM & rolling over the officers terms until May 2021, when the next AGM will be held.

**GETTING BACK TO FACE TO FACE PLACE**

There have in the last month been a couple of clubs that have managed to get back to playing face to face bridge, with the Bridge Centre in Drogheda being the first out of the blocks.

To recap the CBAI have been informed by the public health authorities that bridge clubs fall into the sporting & cultural category for the purpose of permitted numbers, this means that when Dublin moves to level 2 restrictions the limit will be 50 people in a single indoor setting. The advice from HQ is that any club considering reopening should complete a risk assessment, if you have not received a copy of the CBAI’s template you will find a link to it on the CBAI website in the “Plans for Season 2020/21” or there is a copy available on the DSR Bridgewebs page.

For most of your clubs I imagine the return to play is more likely to be determined by your venues willingness to have you back, than the level of restrictions. But for those of you who do get back to playing face to face bridge, it is especially important that your members are aware of & agree to following the guidelines. In these times the refrain “better safe than sorry” should I think be uppermost in our minds.

**AFFILIATION FEES**

The 2020/21 fees have been set by the CBAI Finance Committee & approved by the CBAI Standing Orders Committee & are as follows:

Paid by 30th November 2020 €10 per member.

Paid after 30th November 2020 €12.50 per member.

The expectation of the CBAI Finance Committee is that most clubs will be able to contact their members via email & request the affiliation payment be lodged to the clubs’ bank account. In the event that this is not possible the suggestion is that the club makes the payment (out of club funds) based on last years membership, any overpayment that results from this would be set against the affiliation fees due from the club for 2021/22.

We understand that the majority of clubs will collect the affiliation fee via their annual membership fees, collected from members when they are at the bridge table and as they are not in the club getting payment may not be straight forward, indeed some of your members may not agree to paying the fee, if they are not able to play any bridge.

How a club handles collecting & paying the affiliation fees is for each clubs committee to determine. We would remind you that if your club avails of insurance though the CBAI scheme, this is tied to your affiliation.

If your club is playing on BBO & receiving a refund in respect of the BBO Table money, it may be possible for the club to pay their members affiliation fees out of these refunds especially if you are not paying prizes for BBO competitions.

For those of you not playing any bridge at all, a more practical approach may be to request the affiliation fee from your members & pay over what you receive by late November to the CBAI. You can always make a top up payment at a later point.

**MEMBERSHIP PACKS**

This year these will comprise of just membership cards, the annual newsletter will be published on the CBAI Website. Please contact the CBAI office (492 9666) to arrange to collect your clubs pack.

**BBO**

A good number of DSR clubs are now playing on the BBO platform.

For those of you not on the platform & looking to start, if you need some help please get in touch, we have a number of committee members with lots of BBO experience, who are happy to help you.

If you are a small club or have a small number of members who would play online you might be interested in joining forces with another club or clubs to have a weekly game, let us know & we can put you in touch with each other.

**DRS Regional Competitions**

We were fortunate in 2019/21 that we had played all but the Kay Downes Novice Trophy when lockdown struck. We moved the Kay Downes to BBO & had a great turnout with 15 tables.

We will not be playing regional qualifiers this season. Those that qualified from our regional qualifiers last year did not get to play in their national events due to lockdown. The hope is that these national events will be run in March / April 2021 with those who qualified last season playing.

NEW COMPETITION FRIDAY OCTOBER 30TH

We are going to run a regional pairs competition for Novice, Intermediate B & Intermediate A on BBO.

Each grade will play in its own section, entry will be $3 BBO Dollars, those playing will need to fill in an entry form on the DSR Bridgeweb site (available from Monday 6th October). We would as that you spread the word to you members.

If there is demand for the event, we would look at holding it on perhaps a quarterly basis.

**Fanagan League**

As you know this was halted with lockdown. After much discussion the committee have decided not to try to play this on BBO this season, we feel this league is as much about the social side of bridge as the actual match & this would not translate to an online platform.

Refunding entry fees was not feasible (cheques, 2 signatures & lockdown), our suggestion is that we use your 2019/20 entry fee against your entry fee when the league resumes, with any refunds due being made at this point.

**NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

All competitions between now & year end will be played on BBO, you will find the calendar on the CBAI website, this also included details of the Congresses that have also moved to BBO.

**IBU SIMULTANEOUS PAIRS**

This will be paid on BBO the week of November 2nd.