

Dear County Chairmen

You have doubtless reached the stage of wondering what to do about impending county events, and are waiting to see what the EBU are doing about national events in case this provides some sort of lead.

This weekend we have some Trials in London, and the National Pairs heats taking place at clubs across the country. Since we're not telling clubs to close, and these events are all taking at clubs, they will continue. One participating club has decided to close, and as a result will not be hosting a heat. That's their prerogative.

Next Wednesday there is a Board meeting, at which my colleagues and I will doubtless be discussing whether we're going to start cancelling forthcoming events. Our own little version of COBRA. Whatever we decide, and you will be told when we have decided it, counties have the option of following our lead, or not. There is, I suppose, a sense that we could shut down county events simply by withdrawing licences, but this wouldn't necessarily stop the events taking place, just remove them from our aegis, which will just cause distrust and confusion, which nobody wants. I think the counties, like the clubs, have to make their own decisions, but hopefully when we explain what decision we have made *and why* this will prove helpful.

This is, I suppose, just a holding e-mail, but I don't want you all thinking that because we haven't at this moment advised clubs to close (contrary to what some believe, we can't order it) that we're not considering the regional and national position. Please do not reply to this, however, expecting me to tell you what I think the Board will decide. I don't want to prejudice any discussion, and nor do I want to suggest at this point anything is off the table.

Have a good weekend (and good luck to those participating in the National Pairs). I'll be back in touch after Wednesday. Even if we emerge from mini-COBRA having not quite made a final decision, you deserve to know that, as well.

Regards

Ian