



# Key points HBA COMMITTEE MEETING – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021

## Chairman's Report

Paul had been engaging with clubs and playing online at clubs where he had not played before. Limited interaction with members was possible on BBO but on RealBridge Paul had been able to speak with many club members and reported general support for HBA and no issues.

## Secretary's Report

Robert reported the recent affiliation of Barnet U3A RealBridge Group. They had affiliated to enable their more advanced players to play competitive bridge and anticipated members playing in HBA events. This new club has more than 90 members.

## Education and Teaching Report

Ros reported that Hitchin were planning to resume face to face teaching in the near future.

## Treasurer's Report

Oliver reported

- HBA had refunded county UM of almost £2,000 to clubs. Clubs had agreed to waive more than £700 of this as a contribution to the Lukyn charity donation.
- The total Lukyn donation to DENS was £1,482.
- Paul now has online access to bank account so he can exercise oversight.

The Committee agreed to continue the UM refund to clubs until the end of the financial year.

## Tournament Reports

- An outline playing calendar for 2021/2 had been prepared. This will be shared with clubs and their comments sought. Given the difficulties with online systems club heats would only be held for the Championship Pairs and the Marjorie Lukyn.
- Events for less experienced players would be included in the calendar with eligibility based on NGS at time of entry. The importance of clubs support for these events was emphasised.
- HBA Leagues. It was agreed that these would continue online (unless both teams wish to play face to face) and be extended to 24 boards. The suspended 2019/20 league would be closed as was and masterpoints awarded.

## Green Pointed Events

Subject to Essex's agreement it was proposed that the September 2021 event would also be online. It was also proposed that going forward July events would be face to face but the September ones would remain online. Gary made the comment that some counties have already decided to make their Green Pointed events permanently online.

## Any Other Business

- Attention was drawn to the EBU paper on returning to face to face bridge and its emphasis on risk assessment.
- Online bridge had meant that HBA had been approached by many, more distant, counties than usual to advertise their events. An approach was agreed as to what HBA would and would not advertise on its website. Dave has since simplified that part of the homepage.
- EBU had changed its approach to the 2021 Pachabo Cup several times and the latest version was unclear. HBA has to nominate its team for this and clarification to be sought from EBU.

## Date of Next Meeting

16.00 on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021 via zoom

Hertfordshire

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