



# Key points HBA COMMITTEE MEETING – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Chairman's Report

- Paul had circulated the minutes from the meeting with clubs a few days previously. 11 clubs were represented with apologies from a few more but no response was received from several clubs. Most of the discussion at that meeting was around the HBA playing calendar.
- Paul briefed the Committee on EBU's Festival of Bridge with more detail to come.

## Secretary's Report

- The Committee had agreed membership fees for 2024/5 and Geoff had returned the form to EBU.

## Treasurer's Report

- Oliver had placed a new term deposit at an attractive rate which will produce additional funds in February 2025.
- The Committee agreed that we should look to find ways of returning surplus funds to individual members. This could include by continuing free and discounted entries to HBA events.

## Tournament Secretary's Report

- This formed the major part of the meeting and was a general discussion. The Committee agreed that they wanted to run HBA events – but only ones that members wanted to support in sufficient numbers to make events viable. Feedback from the clubs meeting was fed into the discussion.
- Open events would continue on RealBridge. Other events would be a mix of face to face and online.
- The eligibility criteria for the Eccles Cup would change for 2025.
- The Rose Bowl would be removed from the calendar due to poor support in recent years.
- A Green Pointed Swiss Pairs was booked for July 2024. We would look to run the same in July 2025 and also add a second face to face Green Pointed Swiss Pairs in 2025. These events need an EBU licence and Srimath would apply.
- A Competitions Sub Committee was due to be held shortly and then a provisional 2024/5 calendar would be added to the website.

## Membership Secretary

- Player sessions at Herts clubs were up by almost 7% in 2023. That trend is continuing and January 2024 looks likely to be at least 10% up on January 2023.
- HBA membership has also risen since the 2023 AGM.
- Face to face is becoming more popular. Hadley Wood move their Friday session to face to face from April, Welwyn are moving their Wednesday morning session from RealBridge to face to face from April and Sobell have added a new face to face Wednesday session.

## Selection Committee

- Roger advised that our Eastern Counties teams are all doing very well. The B squad have already won their division and A and C are top of their divisions with one match to be played. 50 players have represented Herts so far this year.

## Green Pointed events

- Given the financial position the Committee agreed to reduce the entry fee for primary HBA members for the July event from £20 to £15. Others would pay £25.

## Date of Next Meeting

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 16.30 via zoom.

Hertfordshire

Bridge

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