

NCBA Clubs' Conference March 2020

Feedback from the Focus group discussions

TABLE 1

1. Good manners- partners that fight is poor as well as aggression to opponents.
2. Players need confidence to raise issues with TD's.
3. Reputation is key- once a club gets a bad reputation it is hard to shift
4. No sense that performance is declining yet County TD pointed out at the higher level Notts generally trails behind other counties in most events.... Is it something we've got used to and don't see..?
5. Get numbers up – junior schools- play 3 hands? improver classes; master classes- what subject and different venues rotating basis.

TABLE 2

6. Bridge is competitive game- but can still be social- e.g. tea break
7. The culture is club centric with insufficient seeing how they fit in the wider picture so reduced aspirations. Some people want to be a big fish in a small pond so don't like the experienced players joining in- is there evidence these people only play to cream the master points?? Do we care??
8. Need a nominated club rep to research websites and print off to improve information
9. GDPR- use a new membership form template so members share their email address with club and NCBA as too many (approx.300) aren't on the NCBA mailing list
10. Competitions- increase numbers by:
 - a) Better notification- posters not just email/internet- older populations - older people been there and done it so may not want to enter events..
 - b) Better advance notification- the calendar idea is good especially paper based for clubs to distribute
 - c) Different communication for different events? Eg club heats and handicaps
 - d) Too many boards so late afternoon start and late finish driving in the dark is unattractive- look at start times
 - e) Build a competitive approach by acknowledging small progressions using certificates or pens or any printed item which also helps promote Bridge in general- NCBA to buy in bulk and sell to clubs?
 - f) Explain NGS to clubs etc- it's the individual, the teacher, the club and NCBA responsibility to do this. Not just NCBA. Ditto blue point etc
 - g) Increase interest in competitions if personal development and confidence improves- masterclasses at least 4 times year in different venues and check terminology doesn't put people off e.g. masterclass. The perception of self-worth is interesting. Buying in trainers (example of £25 per head) is expensive.
 - h) Offer small cash prizes
 - i) Get rid of/tackle the legacy of bad behaviour- this needs everyone to dispel the myth
 - j) Use the active communication methods to get interest, e.g. the hand on the shoulder
 - k) Offer a host system
 - l) Get more volunteers to run these time-consuming events

TABLE 3

1. Need to resurrect the Club Rep idea in each Club.
2. Distribute fliers in clubs
3. Not good communications from EBU
4. Daytime bridge

5. Bridge is too cheap but resistance to putting the table fees up
6. SIMS pairs like last July is good event
7. What about intermediate SIMS pairs?
8. U3A contact?
9. Where does the P2P money go? Is it a toss-up between county professionals going to events vs bridge in schools and universities?
10. We don't know who the top players are- need a profile?
11. Increasing numbers at clubs- stop for tea and a chat?
12. Advertise locally- club responsibility
13. SNOTTY is successful and can share information and resources