

Dear Club Secretaries and members

There follows below a brief summary of important decisions agreed at the NCBA committee meeting held a few days ago. Remember all minutes, and communications including the Constitution, are on the NCBA website for your further information.

1. After the success of Notts CBA<sup>1</sup>'s first online Duplicate drive the Committee has decided to run weekly Duplicate drives on Wednesdays at 7:30pm.

**The next drive will be 17 June at 19:30.**

You only need to register your BBO ID with NCBA once. So if you played last time on 2 June you do not need to send us this information again. If you haven<sup>1</sup>t played an online NCBA event yet, we need the BBO information to set the drive up so you can access it. If you would like to play please register for the drive via the web site. Details of the drive will be sent out on the day to those who have registered. If you have any queries about how to get on to BBO or play on line please look at the NCBA website for helpful information, see some BBO/U Tube videos or contact Keith Spencer the director or Pravin Tailor but it is quite self explanatory.

Bearing in mind it may be many months indeed before we get back to normal physical bridge (if at all) online bridge is the only way forward at this point in time and once you<sup>1</sup>ve tried it, the mystery and fear dissolve. It can be quite fun and we look forward to seeing you.

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2. The Committee are also considering whether we will be able to play To8 this winter- at this stage it looks highly unlikely we will be able to continue the league in the same format as previous years. Jane Hall, our efficient and experienced To8 conveyor suggests that we might be able to play a one off league on line which would be used as the Garden Cities Qualifier. But she is looking into this and will be sending out a communication on this in due course. This note today flags up that the Nottingham TO8 League, as well as the Inter County Midlands League (aka County matches) may well be all online this winter- so it gives you time to practice and learn how to play online if you wish to partake in these events.

3. We asked you all in the last Newsletter whether you would like a To4 Summer league. Sadly only 2 teams showed interest. But now that more people are getting into online Bridge, this may well be re-visited. Again Jane will include reference to this in her forthcoming communique.

4. NCBA could not hold its AGM in May as usual. We have decided that our AGM will be held on or around 1 August 2020 via a zoom meeting. This is simply advance notice. A formal notice will be emailed with the accounts and previous minutes in due course along with the zoom invite. Please consider joining the Committee- these are strange times and we need new blood and skills. if you want further information as to what being a committee member involves please contact the Chair Toni Smith or any committee member- you will be most welcome.

5. Great news for clubs!! NCBA has paid for our County TD Keith Spencer to be trained to set up drives on BBO. We have ascertained from EBU that Nottingham clubs may form Virtual Clubs and play online with Keith training suitable Directors (so they can set the BBO drive up and manage the system themselves) and each club would then have its own BBO ID reference for NO COST. It is important for clubs to have their unique BBO ref so any moneys are refunded to the club direct from the BBO entry fee. So all clubs

can now play online as a club if they so wish without paying individually for the training- just contact Keith directly if you have a director who is willing to do this for your club.

Finally and most importantly, NCBA trust you are all well in these weird times, and managing of course to keep your hand in on the bridge front in some manner.

Stay safe

Kind Regards

Toni Smith

Chair NCBA