The President's Cup (Teams of Four Championship)

1.1 The event shall be a knockout competition with IMP scoring.

1.2 Teams shall consist of not more than six nominated players, all of whom must be members of the Association, have Oxfordshire nominated as their county of primary allegiance at the beginning of the event and maintain this allegiance throughout their involvement in the event.

1.3 Players must have been nominated to the Presidents' and Chester Cup Secretary (PCS) before playing in any match. In the case of last-minute substitution because of unforeseen events, players may be retrospectively deemed eligible at the discretion of the Competitions Sub-Committee.

1.4 A draw shall be made to determine the order of play and the home teams for the first round. The PCS Secretary shall furnish all team captains with details of the draw and play-by dates for each round at least four weeks before the date by which the first round is due to be completed.

1.5 The PCS shall determine the home teams in advance according to basic equalisation principles: the team which has played fewest times at home becomes the home team. Where this is equal, it is the team which has played the most away matches (in preceding rounds). Where this is still equal (e.g. in the first round), it is the team higher up the draw.

1.6 If there are an odd number of teams, the winning team from last year will have a bye in round 1. Where the number of teams entering is not 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc, byes shall be introduced in the second round to reduce the number to a power of 2. Byes shall be spread through the draw with, as far as possible the same number in each half, each quarter, each eighth, etc.

1.7 The away team captain must offer the home team captain a choice of at least three dates for play, of which not more than two shall be in the same week or on the same day of the week, and of which none must clash with either a major EBU competition or the home captain's club duplicate (but only where such club offers only one duplicate session per week). For the final, offered dates must include at least one weekend date.

1.8 If the away captain has been dilatory in offering dates and has failed to offer three valid dates within 10 days of the draw being issued, then the home captain may give notice of his intention to take over this privilege. To do so, he must formally advise the away captain of his intention. Such an intention may not subsequently be withdrawn. However, on receipt of such notification, the away captain then has 24 hours in which to provide three valid offers. Upon expiry of this time, the privilege of offering dates is transferred to the home captain.

1.9 The norm is to play matches on RealBridge, but if both captains agree the match may be played F2F. The venue shall be decided by the home captain who shall provide necessary accommodation, refreshment and playing equipment. If the 48-board final is split over two days, each captain shall host one half of the match.

1.10 The final shall be of 48 boards and all other rounds of 32 boards.

1.11 Each round shall be played in sets of 8 boards, unless the captains agree otherwise. Scoring shall take place at the end of each set, but not until play is complete at both tables. Partnerships may be changed only after each set.

1.12 At the start of the match the captains shall toss a coin. The winner chooses whether to seat or place the players for the first and fourth sets or for the second and third sets. In the final, the winner chooses whether to seat players for the 1st, 4th and 6th sets, or for the 2nd, 3rd and 5th.

1.13 In rounds before the final, if the result is a tie, four further boards shall be played, and a further four if the tie is not broken. If the result of the final is a tie, six further boards shall be played, and a further six if the tie is not broken.

1.14 The captain shall enter the result of the match via MyEBU which then automatically updates the draw for all to see.

1.15 In the event of a default or an unplayed match the match shall be awarded to the team not in default.

1.16 Green points and master points shall be awarded in accordance with the EBU Licensing and Master Point Handbook to members of teams that win matches (except in the case of victories secured by default) on the completion of the competition. Where a match team comprises more than four players, a player must play at least one-third of the boards in order to receive the due award.

1.17 The winning team shall hold the President's Cup for one year and shall receive a team prize equivalent to the value of four times the basic rate.

1.18 The winning team is expected to represent the county in the Pachabo Cup. Any player participating in the Pachabo Cup must have played at least half a match in the President's Cup.

1.19 Where the winning team is unable to represent the county in the Pachabo Cup, the runners up shall be eligible. If the runners up are unable to represent the county, a team may comprise members from both teams. Should it be necessary to find any last-minute substitutes, these should be chosen from teams qualifying for the semi-finals. If none can be found, eligible players from the team winning the Wessex League may be used. Eligible players comprise members of the Association who have nominated Oxfordshire as their County of Primary Allegiance.

2 The Chair's Plate (Teams of Four)

2.1 Where numbers are sufficient, or the Competitions Sub-Committee decides it is in the best interests of players, a Chair's Plate shall be run. 2.2 The event shall be a knockout competition with IMP scoring.

2.3 Teams shall consist of not more than six nominated players, all of whom must be members of the Association. However, members need not have nominated Oxfordshire as their county of primary allegiance.

2.4 Eligible teams comprise those losing in the first round of the President's Cup or teams entering just the plate. (This may for instance be a good way of early career players getting used to 32 Board matches)

2.5 Conditions of contest are as for the President's Cup except that all matches shall be of 32 boards.

2.6 Masterpoints shall be awarded at standard County rate.

2.7 The winning team shall receive a prize equal to twice the standard rate.

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