

MINUTES OF OBA COMPETITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Tuesday 17th Jan (3.30pm – 5.00pm)

Present: KT, SB, MC, SN, RP, PC, SN, PL, PF

Items discussed

1. **Apologies** Sandra Claridge
2. **Minutes of previous meeting**, John Rowe & Kathy met and agreed dates
3. **Initiatives from the Social Committee**

Robert shared some information on about 6 clubs that are in dangers of closing (less than 200 attendance in two months). He also looked at the online and F2F sessions are not evenly distributed, sometimes with several on at the same time, some mornings or afternoons have no sessions. OBA has offered financial support to clubs, but no club has accepted.

The social committee has these Ideas

1. Encourage people at your club to play elsewhere as well i.e. a second game. There could be a prize for the player who plays at most clubs, or one based on attendance – but giving more points for F2F bridge otherwise someone could get the prize by sitting at home all the time. £50 could be committed per quarter.
2. For online bridge, try to make a session available at all times and encourage attendance at that rather than playing in the EBU sessions.
3. Encourage beginners / learners to get involved with local clubs. One could run a session from eg. 10am -2 pm and people can drop in at any time and play a few hands and have lunch. This event could move around the county.

Robert has drafted two emails, one asking clubs if they wish to participate and asking some questions about online times to see if they can be moved to times where there is no online. Also asking about teaching.

Also to all members inviting people to get involved, but this needs some amendment to make this more punchy.

RP & KT are looking for help from SB ref collation of information. In conclusion, whether there is a competition to support this or not, it might be successful. It also shows how willing the county is. Clubs may merge and money can be put into them, but

SN thinks that a competition is not a good idea. As a member of a club that gets around 6 tables, they would encourage a few more members. A free or half club voucher to play at a club once may encourage this. It may be costly but clubs may wish to contribute. We wish to encourage players to play more. It's only a small amount but it encourages.

RP has a small group from the Social committee working on this.

This committee agreed that since the county has funds:

We should simply encourage the social group to go ahead and see how it goes. Play at your own clubs four times and then get one free game. MC: Certainly the non-members charge needs to go (or not until after playing several time). RC can send emails back if further advice is needed. Plan to start from 1st March. Certainly times of duplicate need to be addresses.

ACTION: RP to send out emails to clubs

ACTION: KT & PH to talk to clubs (acting as ACAS !)

4. **National Pairs**

ACTION: KT To speak to Midland Counties.

5. **OBA X-IMP Pairs League**

Two items to discuss, (1) whether it should be on BBO or RealBridge. We decided to increase minutes to 8 per board. And (2) move an extra two pairs up from Jan to Feb per month to get to 10 or 12 pairs in each division. We decided to stay on BBO and allow robots, putting in robots if there is a half table so that people do not sit out.

ACTION: KT to ask Diana for a report on a couple of hands. It needs to go out the next day to be of value.

6. **Congress**

KT had a chat to PF and SB, and the plan was to have it face to face.

ACTION: Congress meeting with SB,KT,PF and SN. Venue would need to be booked. In the past, the congress committee had done all its costings and paid the bills. The treasurer has not been involved with this.

7. **Update on President's Cup**

Matches for semi final need to be fixed.

8. **Update on Wessex League**

It's all running smoothly

9. **Other competitions: what to run and when**

Sunday 19th Feb – Junior Funding. Pairs event. On RealBridge, PH offered to be director. 36 board Swiss Pairs and Blue Point. BUT Keith Sadler is running an Abingdon Blue Pointed Event on the same date. £8 per head = £16 per pair.

SB to try to set up extra option for people to donate extra £10 per person.

Prizes 1st/2nd and top NGS and under. 10% of entry fees

ACTION: PL to check with Keith Sadler. Then decide whether to use 19th Feb or consider 19th March (date reserved for County Pairs final)

Mixed Pairs – around 36 boards, normal pairs, 20% of entry for prizes money. £12 per pair.

10. **AOB**

County level master points to be awarded at all events, since they are occasional or monthly.

Seniors ladder to run as a calendar year. So for 2023 to run from Jan-Dec

Next meeting 16 May, 3.30pm, Zoom.