

To all bridge players in Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire

Report from the January Club Committee Meeting

The EBU Club Committee held its second meeting recently when all the views, comments and suggestions from clubs were discussed.

- We had received a lot of **feedback on the proposed change to the alerting of doubles** with the majority views of members being that:-

1. There have been too many changes too often
2. The proposals were too subjective and/or vague
3. They would lead to more questions at the table
4. Players were already confused enough as to when to alert a double or not

As a result the Club Committee recommended that the current alerting rules remain unchanged but that English Bridge publishes an article giving more examples of situations where doubles should be alerted.

- **Responses to the I T questionnaire** was discussed with the result that the EBU board approved a resolution from the Club Committee aimed at helping clubs start or change to Scorebridge and/or Bridgewebs as soon as possible rather than wait until after P2P is implemented.

Any affiliated club which purchases a single user Scorebridge licence or purchases Bridgewebs after 1st February 2009 and which remains affiliated after P2P is implemented will receive a refund of the Scorebridge licence fee and/or one years hosting cost of Bridgewebs by means of a credit on the clubs first P2P invoice.

I hope many clubs will take up this offer.

- **How much will the EBU Pay to Play fee be in April 2010?**

It will be 29p increased by no more than the Retail Price Index over 2 years

- **How much will our county Pay to Play fee be?**

Your county treasurer is currently working on this. As a guide Hertfordshire have settled their county p2p element as 0.08p

Please contact your county of affiliation to request this information.

- **Working timetable for P2P and UM**

Spring 2009 Volunteer clubs test the new Pay to Play system

3 June 2009 The Pay to Play fee will be agreed at the Shareholders Meeting on this day so that it can be inserted in to the Club Contract which will be circulated in the week following this meeting.

June 2009 - first contracts go out to clubs with the national Pay to Play fee and county Pay to Play component, where counties have provided it, and will include information about Pay to Play guidelines and the package of benefits that will be available to affiliated clubs.

7 October 2009 - shareholders ratify the Pay to Play fee they agreed at their meeting on 3 June for financial year 1/4/2010 - 31/3/2011

April 2010 - Pay to Play system is launched

October 2010 - Pay to Play fee for financial year 1/4/2011 -31/3/2012 is announced

31 December 2010 - Cut off date for clubs who wish to give three months notice if they wish to resign membership.

- **EBU's Development plans are proceeding**

The EBU has published a five year strategy plan which appeared in the December issue of English Bridge. There is an update about the strategy plan in the February issue of English Bridge, with the headlines as follows:

- Simplification of the Orange Book – ongoing with input from the Club Committee
- Free online teaching program available later this year
- Online tournament survey active on our website on 1 February
- The setting up of a parliamentary group to promote the benefits that bridge brings to society

Read all the details in the magazine.

Please make sure you and your club members read the March issue of Club Focus for an update on the activities of the Club Committee and the help that they can provide with the implementation of Pay to Play for your club.

As always I am happy to hear from any club member on any subject at any time.

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Please when replying at any time identify, your club and your county