

Tel: 02380 766040
Email: John_M_Carter@btinternet.com

Apple Tree House,
Hutwood Road,
Chilworth,
Hants SO16 7LL

18th. June, 2007

Dear HIWCBA Club Organiser,

This letter is being sent to every Bridge Club in HIWCBA regarding the proposals from the EBU Board announced at the Shareholders' meeting on Wednesday 6th. June, 2007.

The key features of the EBU proposal are:

- The revitalisation of the Clubs, resulting in a vibrant Bridge playing community at all levels in England. This will be delivered through an extensive range of free services which will be provided to affiliated Clubs, including a National Rating Scheme.
- The annual EBU membership subscription and charges for the Master Point will be abolished.
- A Pay to Play (P2P) scheme will be introduced, in which a small table charge is levied for every player at every duplicate session in an affiliated Club. It has been estimated that this would be about an additional 30p per person to be equivalent to and comparable with today's situation (note that, to this the current Master Point charge of about 13p per person must be added).
- A one-time only Registration Fee of £5 for new or lapsed EBU members, i.e. current EBU members at the date of the implementation of this scheme would not pay this "joining fee". Once an individual has joined, there will not be any further annual membership charges, since the P2P scheme takes over.
- The annual Club Affiliation fee will be based on the number of duplicate sessions played per week. This is suggested to be £50 for the first duplicate session per week, with an additional £25 for the second, and so on, but capped at a maximum of £150, per annum.

The full text of the announcement is available on the EBU Website (www.ebu.co.uk), along with some explanatory Frequently Asked Questions. I have enclosed 20 copies of an indexed and compacted version of the EBU Strategy Document, whose text is identical, for your use with your committee and Club membership. This version is also available on the "hantsbridge.org" Website, so if you need more copies please feel free to photocopy the enclosure or download it from our Website, using the link contained in the left menu of the HIWCBA Home Page.

These are far reaching proposals, affecting every Bridge Club and its membership, both EBU and non-EBU member. Accordingly, the Board of the EBU has decided that an extensive consultation phase should occur and that there should be a debate on the proposals at its AGM in October. The Board is very minded to ensure that the membership is involved in, even determining, the "Future Strategy for the EBU" and you will find in the Strategy Document ways by which you can make comments and/or raise questions.

Also, a part of this consultation process includes a meeting with every County, conducted in small groups. The meeting for HIW, involving also Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Avon, is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 1st. August in Salisbury. The attendees from HIWCBA will be Chris Barrable and Andrew Jenkins, who will be expected to represent the views of our County and report back to the Executive Committee. I would be grateful if you would make the views of your Club and its membership known to Chris by Wednesday 25th. July, 2007, who can be contacted on tel: 02392 780771, at address 19, Hill View Road, Portchester, Fareham, PO16 8DB or by email "a.pearson57 @ntlworld.com", and also to whom questions may be put or from whom clarifications sought.

In addition, I would be very grateful if you would send to me a list of your Club members (both EBU and non-EBU, ideally indicating which is which, if at all possible). I only want the names with sufficient uniqueness to allow me to detect those individuals who are members in more than one Club. I do not need addresses and telephone number; however, if it is easier for you to complete this request with that information, then you have my personal assurance that I will not pass on that information. The purpose for this is simply to be able to do some analysis in statistical terms in an attempt to determine the affect on the individuals who play in HIWCBA Clubs, be they EBU or non-EBU members. Please send this information to me at the points of contact in the letterhead by Wednesday 8th. August, 2007.

Yours faithfully,

John Carter, Chairman of HIWCBA