

Subject: WCBU October Update

Dear Bridge Player

It has been a short while since we have sent out an information letter, but as the lockdown decreases, so we must start thinking about the future of bridge.

POSSIBLE OPENING OF BRIDGE CLUBS

We are now in lockdown level 1, but this still does not entitle us to re-open bridge clubs, which involve mass gatherings participating in a very tactile pastime. We have been in conversation with the SABF as to their feelings on this matter, and they have advised that no bridge club should re-open until the middle of January at the earliest. We also know that in many countries around the world where lockdown regulations have been relaxed, this is often followed by a second spike in the virus. So, whilst we may be setting the middle of January as our target date, this may still be optimistic until we can see the statistics of what is happening to the pandemic, and if those statistics show a negative picture, we will have to delay even further. Let us hope that we can get together for a grand re-opening early next year. It will be nice to see familiar faces again. Whenever we re-open, we will be closing down the majority of our activities on BBO in order to re-energize the face-to-face clubs. It is possible that we may continue with some teams events at night-time, which mainly thanks to Mark Kenyon's hard work, have become extremely popular.

INTERCLUB

The Interclub will be held 06 to 08 November and is open to any paid-up member of the SABF, and entry is free. We would really love to see a large team entry from Cape Town, and hopefully one of our teams lifting the trophy at the end of the event. You can enter online on the WCBU website and whilst this event is called the Interclub, it does not seem necessary for the participants in a team to all be members of the same club. However, should you wish your team to be aligned with a particular Cape Town club, you may do so, but (subject to Club approval) I would suggest that at least 75% of the players in that team should be members of that club. Since the entry is FREE, no excuses for not turning up!

COLLUSIVE CHEATING ON BBO

Already 2 pairs have been found guilty of collusive cheating whilst playing on BBO, and have received lengthy bans from playing on BBO and even longer bans from playing with each other. We all know that this is an easy thing to do – you can Whatsapp your partner and feed them illicit information during the course of a hand, or if you are husband and wife, you can be shouting information across the room. But seriously, WHAT IS THE POINT? We play this game as a mental exercise and we can only pat ourselves on the back if we are successful if those results have been achieved through merit. There are a number of players who are currently on our radar for potential collusive cheating, and we are waiting until we have built up sufficient evidence to show that any accusation is conclusive. So if you happen to be one of those pairs on our radar, PLEASE stop any illicit activity, or you will be brought to task, not only by ourselves but also by BBO, who have very sophisticated software in place monitoring potential collusion. I am happy that it is a very small minority who may

be involved in such activities, but this also ruins the enjoyment of the innocent majority. This is a final warning before we may have to take action.

OTHER NEWS

- a) We will not be holding the traditional Festival of Bridge at the Centre for obvious reasons. Your committee will, however, be trying to put together an online event so that the Festival can continue in name if not in person. Dates of this event will be published in a few weeks on our website and you will be able to enter there. For the time being, reserve some of your leisure time for mid-December for this event.
- b) Renovations at the Bridge Centre are well underway and we look forward to showing off our revamped facilities when we re-open.
- c) The Sunday teams event draws to a close on Sunday 18th. It has been extremely enjoyable and very efficiently run by Mark. The intention is to start a new Swiss teams on the 25th, though we might start later than the current timeslot. Mark will keep you all advised.

Yours in bridge

Tim Cope

Chairman WCBU