



DEVON BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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STRATEGY HELP NEEDED

In order to compose a County response to the EBU's Strategy document, it would be appreciated if all clubs could take a little time to answer the questions below and return their answers to the County Secretary as soon as possible as the County meets with the EBU early in September to pass on your comments. We also strongly recommend that each club Treasurer does a budget to see how the new figures affect his / her club.

WHAT STRATEGY & WHY?

What? The EBU proposes changing the way it raises the money it needs from 2010. Instead of a subscription and a charge for Master Points, there will be a Pay To Play (P2P) fee payable each time anybody plays at an affiliated club. Members of affiliated clubs will automatically become members of the EBU.

Why? It is the role of the EBU as a national bridge organisation to promote and develop bridge in this country. It needs to stem the flow of a decreasing numbers of people becoming EBU members and playing in affiliated clubs. After much research the EBU decided that to survive and re-vitalise the best way forward is to change its membership system so that those who play more pay more. The proposed system is based on best practice in Europe where France, Holland and Sweden have strong and healthy bridge playing communities who demand the type of services that the EBU are proposing to offer our club players and finance them in a very similar way.

WHAT DO WE GET?

All members get free magazines and diary and access to all County and EBU competitions. There is no separate charge for Master Points All clubs get access to a wide range of free or cut-price services.

For more details see the Strategy Document and / or the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk

Some further details are also on the next page

Club name _____

- (1) Approximately how many members in your club? _____
- (2) Approximately how many of these DO NOT belong to the EBU? _____
- (3) How many sessions per week do you have? _____
- (4) What is your average attendance (no of players)? _____
- (5) What is your table money? £ _____
- (6) Do you have any comments so far on the EBU Strategy Document? (on other side if necessary)

EBU figures and some comments / queries

Individual subscriptions raise £395,000 for the EBU from just under 25,000 members.

Club subscriptions raise £25,000 for the EBU from just under 1000 clubs averaging £25.00.

If we take the EBU estimate of 55% club members who do not belong to the EBU, then there are about 55,000 members of affiliated clubs. This estimate will be distorted by dual membership.

Club Master Points raise £255,000 from 2,010,000 player sessions p.a. (EBU figure)

How much?

The EBU anticipates a P2P charge of 43p at 2010 rates (about 40p at 2006 rates) but this may change as further data emerges. The EBU proposes charging a one-off registration fee of £5 for all new members but again this depends on the detailed reactions to the proposals (and any counter-proposals that still raise the money). Any current EBU member playing 75-80 sessions a year will pay about the same as at present.

The effect on the Devon's affiliated clubs

Historically, about 10 years ago new club members were asked if they were joining the EBU as well. This practice has since dwindled or ceased with the result that most if not all of our 35 affiliated clubs have a significant number of non-EBU members. Table money at most if not all clubs is between £1 and £2 per session. So an increase in table money of 27 p at 2006 rates represents a 13.5 to 27% rise.

A sample club budget at 2006 prices

Assume the club has 100 members of which 45 belong to the EBU and averages 9 tables on its one night.

The EBU now gets club subscription	£ 21.00	
45 individual subscriptions	£812.50	
Master Points average 13p per session	£256.50	a total of £1090.
In future it will get 40p per session at 2006 rates	£788.80	
Club subscription	£ 50.00	a total of £838.80.

The EBU will also get a one-off £275 from new members.

The club takes table money @ £1.50 of which 13p is for MPs and the club is left with £2700.

To pay the EBU its 40p and be left with the same £2700 table money would need to rise by 27p.

No account has been made here of the saving in expenditure to the club cause by the extended range of services that will be offered free or discounted by the EBU. This may in turn allow clubs to pass on less than the full 27p to members.

Terence Treeby
DBA Secretary
9 July 2007