

COMPETITIONS STRATEGY – PRINCIPLES TO ADOPT

These principles aim to supply the strategic direction for the planning of the annual competitions calendar.

ONLINE BRIDGE - FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. The EBU is willing to fill any gap in the supply of online games.
- B. The EBU will be flexible in its use of playing platforms.
- C. The EBU will actively support arrangements for online games suitable for all NGS ranks.
- D. The EBU will continue to run all the online games it has been running during lockdown until demand drops below the critical mass which makes it an attractive game for the participants.
- E. The EBU will encourage the playing of knock-out matches online, and support this by offering a service for arranging such matches (booking links and starting each stanza) on RealBridge.
- F. The EBU will migrate a proportion of the historical calendar to become online events, primarily where that makes participation easier for the intended audience, but does not detract from the attractiveness of the event. Candidates include the Tollemache Qualifying Round and the Corwen Trophy.
- G. The EBU will support (license, offer advice on) the organisation of all events which clubs or counties wish to run online, but the number of these allowed enhanced online Master Points (eg Green Points) will be limited to 50% of the organisation's total allowance.

ONLINE BRIDGE - RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

- H. The EBU will organise the provision of a service to supply management for cross-county events where a group of counties identify the need and are willing to take on the responsibility for advertising and collecting entry fees.
- I. The EBU will instigate a review of the Master Point and Licensing handbook, hoping to simplify it, and with particular reference to limitations on counties ability to run regular events, and the approach on events open to non-EBU members.

FACE TO FACE BRIDGE - FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS

- J. The core schedule outside championships will comprise the Summer, Autumn, Year End, Easter and Spring Congresses; plus at least two overseas congresses
- K. For some events, where it enables wider participation and the format supports it, there will be online sections in parallel with the face-to-face event
- L. There is value in having games for specific NGS ranks organised on a local or regional basis, so the EBU will encourage counties or groups of counties to take the lead in organising some of these events, in addition to those that should be run centrally.