

County P2P Levy for the 2010/11 Season

As you are probably aware, the Surrey CBA Committee elected to undertake a consultation exercise on this subject by sending a Freepost Card in the last issue of the Surrey Magazine and placing a related article on the Surrey Web Site, to ask the membership what Services they wished to see run in the 2010/11 season, and thus how much they were prepared to pay as a County P2P Levy.

The results of this exercise are tabulated below.

Activity	2010/11 forecast expenditure	County P2P levy required	'Yes' Votes received	'No' Votes received
Income – this refers to interest on our reserves in the Bank, Club affiliation fees, profit from running the Green Point events, etc.; this provides us a pool from which we can finance some services	(£2,800)	-1.4p	N/A	N/A
Administration – this refers to Meetings, Postage, Stationery, Travel, Web Site costs, etc.; this is effectively a mandatory category, since without the administration effort, the County would cease to function	£1,200	0.6p	N/A	N/A
County Competitions: Entry Fee Subsidy – this refers to the fact that for some time, the competitions programme has been running at a loss; to eliminate this loss would require a significant rise (~30%) in the competition entry fees	£1,800	0.9p	110	72
County Competitions: Equipment – this refers to Bridge Stationery, Computer Software, Director Training, etc.; this is a mandatory if we are to maintain a Competitions Programme;	£1,000	0.5p	160	22
County Representation: Entry Fees – this refers to the fees which Surrey pays to enter representative pairs and teams in the various competitions, such as the Tollemache, Pachabo, Garden Cities, Daily Telegraph, etc.	£1,200	0.6p	135	47
County Representation: Expenses – this refers to the expenses which Surrey pays to support representative pairs and teams in the various competitions, e.g. hotel bills, etc.	£2,000	1.0p	119	63
Competitions Brochure – this refers to the costs associated with the production and distribution of the brochure sent to all members each year; in calculating this cost, we have assumed an approximate doubling of the Surrey membership due to the number of current non-EBU members who would become members automatically as members of Affiliated Clubs	£3,000	1.5p	128	54
Magazine production and distribution – this refers to the costs associated with the production and distribution of two issues of the magazine sent to all members each year; in calculating this cost, we have assumed the same Surrey membership as above	£6,000	3.0p	134	48
Schools Programme – this refers to the costs associated with running youth bridge activities, such as the annual Schools' MiniBridge tournament	£500	0.3p	161	21
TOTAL	£13,900	7.0p		

At the time of the magazine mailing, our County Membership numbered 2086 – this means that 182 respondents represent about 9% of the membership who responded to the consultation exercise. This seems to indicate that although those members who responded generally support the current County activities, there is a huge majority of members who failed to respond. It therefore seems likely that we are supplying a large number of services at a significant cost, where the majority of our members have no interest in them.

Having discussed this at great length, the Surrey CBA Committee has elected to take the following actions:

- Set the County P2P Levy at 0p for the 2010/11 season; this will minimise the financial impact on all Surrey Clubs, and we hope it will enable as many as possible to affiliate to the EBU once P2P comes into force;
- Keep the Competitions programme as it is now, with subsidy level as for the 2008/09 season;
- Entry fees paid for Surrey representatives;
- Retain the Schools programme as it is now;
- Cease to produce the Surrey Competitions Brochure, and ensure that all information which was previously contained within it is available on the County Web Site; for members without internet access who pre-register, we will provide paper copies of the relevant web pages;
- Cease to produce the Surrey Magazine, replacing it with a newsletter page on the County Web Site;
- Absorb the remaining costs of County Activities for the 2010/11 season out of our financial reserves

These actions are not taken lightly, and the Surrey CBA Committee will be monitoring the reaction to these changes closely over the course of the 2010/11 season with a view to adjusting our services to meet Member demand in subsequent seasons.

However, we hope that all Clubs in Surrey will appreciate our efforts to minimise the financial impact to their day-to-day sessions, and will continue to support the County as they have always done.

If you have any questions, feel free to write to me, either by post or e-mail.

The Surrey CBA Committee have now communicated this decision to all Club Chairmen in Surrey, either through an e-mail contact or by post, and also communicated this decision to the English Bridge Union. We needed to do this so that this could become part of the Club Contracts that the EBU will be looking to all Surrey Clubs to sign up to over the coming months.

Chris Stableford
Surrey CBA Chairman
7th April 2009