

## **EDITORIAL**

### **FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS TOURNAMENTS – DAVID LAW**

The Management Committee is concerned some members, through general conversation, may be misinformed that only an elite group of players are able to participate in overseas tournaments and that the members' subscriptions and accumulated funds go primarily towards funding that participation. The Management Committee would therefore like to clarify the following:

1. MCBA pays the entry fees only for events where players are representing Malaysia or MCBA; i.e. Olympiad, APBF (Zone 6) Championships, Commonwealth Nations Championships and Asean Championships. MCBA does not pay the entry fees for regional or other invitational events such as Pesta Sukan and Easter Congresses, Batam Governor Kepri Cup or Hongkong Intercity
2. For the Olympiad and APBF Championships, MCBA pays an incentive of RM200 per match won to the team
3. For the APBF and Asean Championships, MCBA pays an award to any Malaysian team finishing in the top three positions
4. For the Olympiad and APBF Championships, MCBA grants a subsidy to each player to help offset the expense; and this is capped at 30% of the estimated cost of travel and accommodation. At times, players may obtain private sponsorship which are not part of the Association's subsidy
5. All the above financial incentives are clearly stated in the entry rules which are available to any MCBA member to peruse
6. All MCBA members are eligible to submit an entry to participate in any of the events partially funded. Participation may be subject further to the WBF or APBF regulations currently in force
7. For the Asean Championships which is limited to 10 teams per country in each series, MCBA pays the entry fees for all the eligible teams irrespective of playing level. It is the only Asean NCBO to do so
8. The funding does not come from the members subscriptions or accumulated funds. They come from the Asean Championship Fund which is a fund specifically set up for MCBA to host the Asean Championships, which it does by rotation, or the APBF Championships, which it has to bid for, with the surplus being available to fund participation in the overseas tournaments including the aforesaid two
9. The Championship Fund, being separate from the members' accumulated funds, has since its inception in 1982 been identified as a separate item in the audited accounts tabled annually at the General Meeting, with receipts thereto or payments therefrom also being shown separately.

10. As MCBA does not have any youth teams, and the ladies team only rarely participated in the APBF or Asean Championships since 2000, the fund has not been depleted by as much as it could have been.
11. MCBA's objectives, as stated in its Constitution are i) encourage and develop interest in bridge, ii) encourage bridge clubs and branches of the Association, iii) provide a rules and ethics authority for Malaysia, iv) represent Malaysia in international competition and v) affiliation with Pacific Asia Bridge Federation and World Bridge Federation. Being a national bridge organisation the objectives are required to be more comprehensive in serving the national interest than those of an ordinary bridge club. Therefore they may not be identical or similar to the objectives of all the members and there is of course no compulsion for any player whose own objectives are at variance to join the Association
12. In 2010 MCBA became an associate member of the Olympic Council of Malaysia ("OCM")
13. Participation in any multi-sport event such as SEA Games, Asian Games etc if bridge is included as an event, will be under the purview of OCM. OCM will determine eligibility (subject to the rules of the respective international sports federation e.g. citizenship requirement), approval to participate and selection
14. OCM will provide logistics support to all participants taking part in multi-sport events, as well as financial incentives where applicable
15. Details of Malaysia's participation in the APBF Championships and Olympiad are available on the website [www.mcba.org.my](http://www.mcba.org.my)
16. The Management Committee hopes that the above has clarified any queries the membership may have regarding funding overseas tournament. It hopes to see many more members take advantage of the generosity of the Association by participating more fully in international events to bring glory to Malaysia