

# LEICESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 7.15 p.m.  
Loughborough Greenfields Sports and Social Club

**Present:** 38 members of the LCBA

- 1. Apologies for Absence** - 13 members of the LCBA.
- 2. Minutes of the 67<sup>th</sup> AGM** - were approved and signed by the chairman as an accurate record of that meeting.
- 3. Matters arising from the above not on this agenda** - Re Item 6 – ‘Proposals from the Outgoing Executive Committee’ – a question was raised as to whether the proposed changes to the LCBA Constitution were in place. Robert Northage said he had the matter in hand. It was further requested that the amended constitution be placed on the LCBA website.

**4. Report by the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the year 2013/2014 –**

Dave Pollard reported that the year had been a transitional one. The General Secretary Robert Northage announced that he would be stepping down from the role at the end of the year after twenty years in office. Robert has made a significant contribution to bridge in Leicestershire. He has acted as an ex officio member of all the sub committees and as a Tournament Director at county level. He resurrected the Leicestershire Green Point events and acted as an EBU Shareholder. Mike Ayers has also decided to stand down from the committee after seven years. Mike has been a member of the Tournaments subcommittee and involved in the setting up of the Pairs League – an involvement which he is happy to continue. Dave offered his thanks to all his fellow committee members for their work throughout the year.

Leicestershire members had success at International level. Susan Stockdale was selected as a member of the English Ladies team throughout the year and Ben Norton was a member of the Under 20 English Team that won the Peggy Bayer event in February 2014.

In the Midland Counties League, Leicestershire County Teams were placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the Dawes, 5<sup>th</sup> in the Porter and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Markham. Dave thanked Dick Pathan for all his work as Fixture Secretary.

The LCBA League attracted an entry of thirty teams and had run very smoothly with Richard Smith at the helm. Dave gave special thanks to Richard for all his work.

The support for the LCBA competitions was largely maintained. Playing all matches for the Josephs Bowl on the same night proved to be a successful format with a higher entry but, sadly, there was a lower entry for the Students Mercury competition and the Yates Cup event had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Dave thanked Neil Beasley for his work as Tournaments Secretary.

The committee took the decision to withdraw financial support for the Paul Bowyer Seminars during the year. This was not well received by members. The committee therefore reconsidered their decision and hope to explore ways of facilitating the Seminars in 2015.

Dave concluded by reporting the deaths of 15 members during the year including Alan Langley. Alan was treasurer from 1983 until 1989 and had played bridge at County level. In his memory, the committee propose that the Butterworth Trophy be renamed the Butterworth Langley Trophy. Alan had originally presented the trophy to the LCBA in memory of his County Team partner Nigel Butterworth.

Sue Bowyer proposed that this report be adopted. Henry Cooklin seconded the proposal which was unanimously accepted.

**5. Treasurer's Report** – Henry Cooklin presented the certified accounts for the year to the meeting. The income was substantially increased due partly to some items being paid for last year due to the way dates due fall and from increased income from tournaments. The income from the Green Points event was reduced. It was noted that this event is not well supported by LCBA players. This statement provoked criticism from members that lack of support was, at least in part, due to the fact that senior Committee and first division players are not well represented in the event. The accounts were accepted by a unanimous vote.

**6. Proposals from the outgoing Association Executive Committee -**

i) *That for 2015/16 EBU Playing Members whose prime county of allegiance is Leicestershire the LCBA P2P component be reduced from 8p to 6p. (there remains no charge for juniors)*

This proposal provoked considerable discussion. The outcome was an amended proposal by Paul Bowyer that there should be no change to the 8p P2P and that the money saved be put towards an education fund. This amended proposal was seconded by Frank Travers. 25 persons voted in favour of this proposal and 4 against.

ii) *That for other EBU Playing Members (Dual Members, EBU Direct Members and others not active in P2P sessions in LCBA Affiliated Clubs) the LCBA Membership subscription for 2015/16 to remain at £4.00 and £1.50 for juniors.*

Richard Rees proposed that this be accepted. Carol Fisher seconded the proposal for which the vote was unanimous.

**7. Election of LCBA Officers and Committee Members** – the following were returned unopposed:

Chairman	David Pollard
Vice- Chairman	vacancy
Immediate Past Chairman	John Wilcox
Treasurer	Henry Cooklin
General and Membership Secretary	Pat Beasley – also Minutes Secretary
League Secretary	Richard Smith
Tournament Secretary	Neil Beasley
Webmaster	John Thompson
Fixtures Secretary	Dick Pathan
Education Liaison Officer	Simon Stokes
Other Committee Members:	Dean Benton, Irene Krantz, Robert Northage, Brian Stockdale, Ken Vernon and Steve Wright

**8. Announcement of Result of Election of Affiliated Clubs of LCBA Representative to serve on Regional Club Committee** – Dean Benton was returned unopposed. Dean was thanked for taking on the role.

**9. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner** – Henry Cooklin proposed that King Freeman Accountants be reappointed. Dean Benton seconded the proposal which was unanimously carried.

**10. AOB** – none submitted.

**11. Presentation of Trophies by the Guest of Honour Cliff Ault** – Cliff – of Leicester University Bridge Club – expressed his thanks for the invitation to present the trophies. He recounted that his club had been founded in the mid 1950s by Neil Beasley as a student club. Cliff had run the club since the early 1960s. For many years the club organised a National Charity's Competition at Vaughan College.

After the presentation of the Trophies, Cliff's wife was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.22 p.m.