

LEICESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday 10th June 2015 at 7.15 p.m.

Greenfield Sports and Social Club, Loughborough LE11 3HZ

Present: 38 members of the Leicestershire Contract Bridge Association

- 1. Apologies for absence:** were received from Doreen Arnold, John Arnold, John Bee, Diana Bowden, Marjorie Gilbertson, Jenny Grant, Yasser Haider, Peter Halford, Judy Hill, Tom Lindop, Robert Northage, Ben Norton, Stuart Rees, Bharat Thackrar, Peter Travers, Ian Walkerdine, Jean Wightman and Steve Wright.
- 2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM:** were accepted nem con - proposer Sue Bowyer, seconder Tim Glover. The chairman signed the minutes as an accurate record of the 68th LCBA AGM.
- 3. Matters arising from the above which are not on this agenda:** Paul Bowyer announced that his seminars will take place in the summer months 2015. Susan Bowyer asked whether the constitution had now been updated. Pat Beasley said that the matter is still in hand.
- 4. Report of the Committee for the year 2014-2015:** The chairman Dave Pollard reported that the year had seen several changes. John Wilcox had resigned from the committee after many years of service including two periods as chairman. Robert Northage, who received the Dimmie Fleming award last October, has now sadly decided to stand down from the committee after twenty years as General Secretary. Thanks were expressed to Pat Beasley for taking on the role so efficiently. Leicestershire had not had their most successful year in the Midland Counties League finishing 7th in the Dawes, 6th in both the Porter and the Markham.

The Tournament sub-committee had organised a review of the Pairs League by setting up a working group of players chaired by Richard Rees. Their recommendations were accepted by the main committee. It was pleasing to be able to report an increased entry for the Mercury Trophy and that the Yates Trophy event had been restarted thanks to Simon Stokes. In the League the Division 1 trophy has a different name on it for this season. Thanks were expressed to Richard Smith for his usual efficient running of the League. Sue Bowyer proposed a round of applause for Richard. A change is afoot - Richard will now be taking on the role of webmaster and Brian Stockdale will be running the League.

The new Education Liaison Officer – Simon Stokes – was then asked to give a report of his first year in office in the light of the 2014 AGM request that, rather than reduce the LCBA subscription, the money involved should be allocated to education. Simon reported that his sub-committee's main emphasis had been on the establishment of teaching programmes. Paul Bowyer had agreed to offer a series of four seminars in 2015. Simon told the meeting that he had been given access to a substantial amount of LCBA funds to support his ventures. The aim now is to develop further teaching for students of the game of bridge.

Brian Stockdale – a member of the Education subcommittee – told the meeting about the EBU's Junior Teach-in that will again take place at Loughborough University this summer. He offered leaflets for those present to distribute with the aim of ensuring a Leicestershire presence for the event.

The chairman continued with an outline the impressive achievements of Ben Norton. He has played in the under 20 England team helping to retain the Junior Camrose and Peggy Bowyer trophies and also has very recently been selected as part of the under 25 team.

Sadly several deaths were reported during the year including Len Hillier, Eric Cox and Cyril Lander. Special tributes were paid to both Arthur Bowyer and, most recently, Howard Stevens.

5. **Presentation by the Treasurer of the Statement of Accounts for the year 2014-2015 duly certified by an independent Financial Examiner: the Treasurer,** Henry Cooklin, explained that the new Independent Financial Examiner was not strictly accurate in that James Sibley had carried out the role for many years. Recent mergers account for seeming change. Henry presented the accounts to the meeting. He explained the new format for splitting the proceeds of the Green Point events is 50% to the home county and 25% to the away counties. Hence his plea that LCBA members support the Leicestershire event in particular. The cost of the League prize trophies has now been written off. Pat Watson suggested that the 'Dawes' competition would be better described as the 'Midland Counties' league. Neil Beasley explained that the stationery purchased will last for the next 4 years. The accounts were accepted nem con – proposer Tim Glover seconded by Tony Odams.
6. **Proposals from the outgoing Association Executive Committee:**
 - a) **That for 2016-2017, members playing at LCBA affiliated clubs, the LCBA P2P component remains at 8p:** accepted nem con proposer Henry Cooklin seconded by Richard Smith.
 - b) **That for 2016-2017, EBU direct members, dual members and others not active in P2P sessions at LCBA affiliated clubs, the LCBA Membership subscription remains at £4.00 and £1.50 for junior members:** accepted nem con – proposer Henry Cooklin seconded by Garry Duddle.
 - c) **That the LCBA purchase of a set of 20 Bridgemates with a dedicated lap top computer at an approximate cost of £2500:** the Tournaments Secretary, Neil Beasley, stated that he now had a firm quote for this proposed purchase of £2590. He proposed adoption of this purchase seconded by Mick Mahoney. After discussion the AGM attendees recommended amending the proposal to the purchase of sufficient Bridgemates to completely fill the carrying case included in the original quotation – i.e. 25. Further assurance was also given that the bridgemates will be put to extensive use. The purchase was then approved nem con.
7. **Election of Officers and other Association Executive Committee members:** no vote taken as there was only one person for each office and 3 of the possible 6 committee members.
Dean Benton said how touched he was to have been elected as the new LCBA Chairman. He thanked Dave for his contribution as LCBA Chairman for the past two years outlining how Dave had been 'persuaded' to take on the role following his agreement to join the committee in the 2008/2009 season when he was League Chairman. Dave received a hearty round of applause.
8. **Appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner for 2015 – 2016:** Henry Cooklin proposed that James Sibley who had overseen the accounts for the past 7 years be reappointed. Proposal carried nem con – Neil Beasley seconder.
9. **Resolutions put forward by individual members:** none
10. **Any other business:** none
11. **Presentation of Trophies by Guest of Honour Phil Watts** – who told the meeting that he was delighted to accept the invitation to be the Guest of Honour. He was a former Jones and Shipman – tool manufacturers - apprentice. This had led to his playing for the J & S second team around 50 years ago with his long term partner Howard Stevens. The pair soon were representing J & S 'A' team in Division 1 and enjoying success in other LCBA events. More recently Phil and Howard are well known members of the Bradgate Bridge club and team. Phil concluded by saying that he has greatly enjoyed his 50 years of bridge playing mainly in the league but also for the County teams.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Pat Beasley

17th June 2015