

LEICESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 5 March 2015 at 7.15 p.m.
Memorial Hall, Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL

Present: Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dean Benton, Irene Krantz, Dick Pathan, Dave Pollard – chairman, Richard Smith, Brian Stockdale, Simon Stokes, John Thompson, Ken Vernon and Steve Wright - joined the meeting part way through.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Henry Cooklin and Robert Northage
2. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 2 December 2014:** were approved nem. com. as an accurate record of the meeting.
3. **Matters arising from the above not on this agenda:** Brian Stockdale reported that his research into Bridge pads was not favourable.
4. **EBU Matters - Report of the Midland Counties Working group meeting held on 15 January 2015:** the EBU have published detailed minutes of this meeting. Richard Smith raised the proposed visits to local clubs – item 5.2 – Matters for National Working Party Management Group stating that counties should nominate someone to visit local clubs and gather new members' opinions. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting and include teaching provision.
5. **Treasurer's Business:** Henry Cooklin had sent his report to the committee. The current bank balance is £10645. He asks all the [committee members to let him have any outstanding expenses claims by the end of the month](#). He is happy to support the possible purchase of Bridgemate and suggest this should happen after this financial year ends on 31 March with the cost to be written off over 5 years of use.
6. **General Secretary's Business including:**
 1. 2015/16 Calendar ratification – Pat Beasley outlined the adjustments required to the proposed calendar. It was agreed to move the Mercury Trophy forward by 1 week to avoid Easter Tuesday. The agreed calendar will be circulated to clubs as soon as possible.
 2. AGM preparation including:
 - [Guest of Honour – Pat agreed to contact the suggested person.](#)
 - Prospective vacancies 2015/16 – vice chairman and webmaster.
 - [Officer's input to the Committee's report- Dave requested that these be sent to him.](#)
 - Life membership proposals – none
 - Trophies – the Butterworth Trophy was brought to the meeting. It was agreed to engrave the blank side with Butterworth Langley Trophy 2014/15.
 - In addition Pat plans to send an AGM reminder to LCBA members via their clubs 6 weeks prior to the AGM. Also included will be the list of the current executive committee with prospective vacancies for 2015/16 and a blank nomination form. The Regional Club Committee has been superseded by the Midlands Working Group. Darren Evetts confirmed that there is no longer the need to elect a club representative to serve on this group. The Executive committee may nominate two representatives to attend instead.
7. **League Secretary's Business:** Richard Smith had provided a League report prior to the meeting. He is currently planning to trial the EBU League Management system.

- 8. Tournaments Secretary's Business:** Neil Beasley had provided a report and the minutes of the Tournament subcommittee meeting prior to the meeting. He further reported that the Pairs League review group very recently held their first meeting. All Pairs League players will be involved in the review. The entry for the Green Point events to be held on 7/8 March is a little down on last year. 1 pair ranked star master or below has entered the Pairs event. The estimate for the possible purchase of the Bridgemate system – 20 bridgemates + server + carrying case - had been circulated. It was agreed that the cost of a dedicated lap top also needs to be added to the estimate. After discussion Steve Wright proposed that the LCBA's purchase of the system – total cost £2590 - **be included on the AGM agenda as a recommendation**. Ken Vernon seconded the proposal which was unanimously agreed. It was also **agreed to look into insurance for the system**.
- 9. Fixture Secretary's Business:** Dick Pathan told the committee that in the MBL matches the Dawes team are currently last and the Porter and Markham teams are in midway positions. Next season there will be 8 counties in the MBL and the EBU League Management system will be used. A proposal for friendly optional '4th team' matches has been made. Concern was raised that Leicestershire are not always able to field their 'best' players due to availability problems.
- 10. Education Secretary's Business:** Simon Stokes reported that the planned Education subcommittee meeting had had to be postponed for personal reasons. The Paul Bowyer Seminars – 4 fortnightly sessions at County Club/Greenfields – are to take place with no change to Paul's fee. Simon has contacted all the LCBA EBUTA members. Further liaison is planned. It is hoped that clubs will support the EBED Charity Simultaneous Pairs events. Plans for the Mercury Trophy are in hand.
- 11. Membership Secretary's Business:** Pat Beasley had circulated the 2014/15 detailed membership report prior to the meeting. 1 further dual member has now paid a subscription giving a total membership of 945. Sadly, three LCBA members have died during the season.
- 12. Webmaster's Business:** John Thompson reported that he is endeavouring to leave the website up to date when he completes his tenure of the office at the AGM.
- 13. Mission Statement proposal:** Richard Smith expressed his concern that the LCBA Executive Committee is not listening to the views of the LCBA membership as a whole. A discussion was held of the best ways of improving this situation. **Dean Benton and Dave Pollard agreed to try to come up with ideas for helping resolve the problem**.
- 14. Dates of further Meetings:**
Thursday 30 April 2015 – League Forum at the Rothley Centre
Monday 11 May 2015 – Executive Committee Meeting at Glenfield Memorial Hall
Wednesday 10 June 2015 – LCBA AGM and the Presentation of Prizes at Greenfields, Loughborough followed by the Special Meeting to select sub-committees for 2015/16
Tuesday 8 September 2015 – Executive Committee Meeting at Glenfield Memorial Hall
Thursday 3 December 2015 – Executive Committee Meeting at Glenfield Memorial Hall
- 15. AOB:** 2 advance apologies were given for the committee meeting planned for 11 May.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Pat Beasley

13 March 2015