

LEICESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 8 March 2018 at 7.15 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL

Present: Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dean Benton, Dick Pathan, Dave Pollard - chair, Simon Stokes, John Thompson, John Wilcox and Steve Wright.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Henry Cooklin
2. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 5 December 2017:** were unanimously accepted as an accurate record.
3. **Matters arising from the above not on this agenda:** re Item 6 b) Paul Bowyer Seminars 2018 – Paul is happy to run a series of 4 seminars with 'Defence' as the topic. He suggests holding 2 seminars in early August and two in late August. After discussion, the proposed dates are Tuesdays 31 July, 7 and 28 August and 4 September. Pat agreed to sort out venues in consultation with Paul.
4. **EBU matters – a) EBU Strategic Plan, 2018-2023 Consultation – reply needed by 12th March 2018:** After discussion it was agreed to suggest to the EBU that an incentive may help attract affiliation from non EBU clubs, that attention is paid to 'grass roots' members and that the EBU Magazine needs to be made more appealing.
b) Important information about the General Data Protection Regulation: it was agreed to set up a subcommittee to go through the recommendations received from the EBU with a view to producing a document to help the committee and the Leicestershire clubs comply with the revised Data Protection Act. Steve Wright, John Wilcox and Pat and Neil Beasley agreed to be the members of this subcommittee.
c) Advanced TD Courses – topic is the recent law changes
d) EBU - Annual 2017 Club Champions and members Master Point Ranking Lists: both c) and d) included for committee information only.
5. **Report of the recent Midlands Working Party group meeting:** Dave Pollard told the committee about the issues raised at the meeting held on 18 January. 6 issues requiring the group's attention had been identified: the provision of support for bridge teachers, to look for ways of helping students to become involved in duplicate bridge, to redress the growing gap between non-competitive bridge plays and those regularly playing competitive bridge, to look for ways of supporting unaffiliated bridge clubs, to increase understanding of how the EBU's revenues are used and to investigate ways which may make the EBU's IT systems more suited to county and club managers.
6. **Treasurer's business:** Henry Cooklin's report showed that there is currently £8506 in hand with several payments to be made before the end of the financial year.
7. **General Secretary's business:** a) **Proposed 2018/19 Calendar:** was approved after discussion.
b) **Increased hire charges for The Rothley Centre:** following enquiry, the Rothley Centre Management Trust have said that the hire agreement signed by Pat Beasley on behalf of the LCBA covering the period up to and including the AGM will be honoured. The new proposed set up charges for the Lounge and Templar rooms have now been waved. This means that the LCBA will now pay £55 for the hire of the Lounge as opposed to £33 this season. No bookings for the Templar room at £100 have been made.

c) 2018 AGM preparation: Guest of Honour – Henry Cooklin is delighted to accept the invitation to act as Guest of Honour as he retires as LCBA Treasurer after 29 years in office. **Prospective vacancies 2018/19** – the position of Treasurer. **Officer's input to the Committee's report** – please forward to Dave Pollard asap. **Life membership proposals** – none. **Trophies** - Neil and Pat Beasley will ensure that the trophies are collected and engraved in readiness. Pat outlined the quote for the League trophies which will cost £324 including a 10% discount on the £9 cost per trophy and free engraving.

8. **Fixture Secretary's business:** Dick Pathan reported that with 1 match remaining v Oxfordshire the Dawes team are in 1st position, the Porter in 8th and the Markham in 6th. He was pleased to report that there is a good pool of players for selection. He expressed his thanks to the webmaster for posting results. The use of Bridgemates for scoring matches has proved very onerous to set up so they are not being used.
9. **League Secretary's business:** John Wilcox reported that there have been very few problems this season. Any postponements have been rearranged promptly. Leicester University has experienced problems with venues but are hoping to fulfil their outstanding matches.
10. **Tournaments Secretary's business:** Neil Beasley had sent out his reports ahead of the meeting. He further reported that the March Green Point Pairs event had been cancelled due to lack of support. No cancellation penalties were incurred. Robert Northage hopes to get better support for the June event. Neil reported that the 'Press release to the EBU' has ceased. Discussion re the proposed changes to the format of the Josephs Bowl event followed. Byes and fixed dates for the event had caused problems that may well have explained this season's reduced entry. The Tournament subcommittee recommend that the first round of the event be changed to a multi-teams format. This was unanimously agreed. The proposal that subsequent rounds would then be home play with non-expert teams paying a small fee to enter the Butterworth Langley event directly. It was agreed to postpone any voting on this change to enable consultation re the proposal with likely entrants to the event.
11. **Education Liaison business:** A report of the recent Education subcommittee meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. A follow up meeting is proposed. Brian Stockdale was meeting representatives of the Stamford BC re their school's initiative. He was also planning to run the proposed summer bridge school for parents and children. It is also planned to ask Richard Smith to set up a separate Education section on the LCBA website. Simon Stokes reported that very few entries to the Mercury and Yates cup events have been received. Pat Beasley agreed to provide a list of the EBTA registered teachers. Simon also reported that he hoped to organise another teaching course later this year supported by his designated LCBA fund. Dean Benton described a new teaching approach in use at the Ashby BC.
12. **Membership Secretary's business:** Pat Beasley outlined the final membership numbers for the current year. The total had risen from 924 to 950. She pointed out that the number of Bridge for All students had fallen to just 5 Year 1 people. 7 Deaths were reported for the season including LCBA Life Member David Field in February 2018. Pat had received a discussion document from Gordon Rainsford of the EBU asking her opinion of his suggestions for improving the EBU/LCBA Membership new report. She plans replying.
13. **Committee officer's Job Specifications – Tournament Secretary's** was approved.
14. **AOB:** Steve Wright reported that the Bradgate Bridge Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.