



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club

Wednesday 27 July 2011

ACTION

Present: Darren Evetts (Chairman), Mike Thorley (Vice-Chairman), Leslie Reece (Treasurer), Sandra Squires (Secretary and Membership Secretary), Colin Lang (Ex-Officio Chairman), Peter Nicholds, Jane Hall, Carolyn Fisher, John Pyner, David Jones, Chris Harris, Gordon Fox, Roger Blackwell

1) Apologies

Hylde Townsend, Elayne Meakin (Competitions Secretary), Jon Downing (League Secretary), Stephanie Galvin (English Bridge Correspondent), Myra Scott (Newcomers Development Officer), Adrian Knight (Match Secretary), George Cuthbertson, Nicky Cook (Publicity Officer), Mike Meakin, Nick Woosnam.

The Chairman welcomed Chris Harris who is the county's representative on the Midlands club committee. He also welcomed Gordon Fox (Secretary) and Roger Blackwell (former Chairman) from Stratford upon Avon Bridge club

2) Special Presentation

Stratford upon Avon Bridge Club had requested the opportunity to present to the Executive their comments with regard to charity events held by their club. Gordon Fox and Roger Blackwell asked the Executive to consider the current regulations relating to the number of exempt P2P Sessions that a club could hold for social or charitable purposes. Currently each club is allowed one free session of choice and one 'Children in Need' charity SIMS free session.

Stratford currently holds around 350 sessions per year and would like the EBU to consider changing its policy to allow clubs to have exempted sessions based upon the number of sessions it has in any one period (eg a week or a year). Some concern was expressed because there would inevitably be a loss of income to the EBU and to the County. However, the committee agreed that one blanket rule which applied to clubs of all sizes seemed out of proportion. There was also comment on whether the EBU should consider releasing the 'Children in Need' charity exemption to allow clubs a free choice of which two sessions it exempts. It was agreed that the matter should initially be one for the new Regional/National Club Committees to discuss before the Executive decide whether to put it forward as a Shareholder resolution.

CH

Gordon Fox and Roger Blackwell thanked the committee for their time and response and left the meeting.

3) Minutes of last meeting (19 April 2011)

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2011 were taken as read with three minor corrections to the dates in items (2) and (3) (c).

The Chairman signed the amended minutes.

4) Matters Arising

Darren Evetts and Colin Lang both wrote to Nicklin LLP to thank them for their sponsorship

- a) Database for players – A meeting has been held and Ken Crane is making progress
- b) National Women's Teams – to date ten teams have entered. Twelve teams are needed for the event to break even financially.
- c) Green Point 22 May 2011 – This was extremely successful with 32 tables in play. The profit was over £1,100 to share between the County and Coventry & NW Bridge Club.

DE

5) AGM Matters

Dan Crofts had raised the matter of the WPL being played on a Wednesday evening which clashes with Moseley Bridge Club's main night. The committee discussed the matter and Darren Evetts was requested to write to Dan and advise him that there was no suitable alternative night.

DE

6) Committees 2011/12

Darren Evetts had circulated a list of the proposed committees for the forthcoming year. Paul Loweth agreed to serve on the Conduct Committee and Robin Ogg agreed to serve on the Disciplinary committee. The committees were approved unanimously.

It was agreed that the Newcomers Committee could co-opt additional members if needed.

It was noted that clubs should include in their governing document suitable disciplinary procedures, including appeal procedures. It was also noted that the County should be the first level of appeal in a club's appeal process. All clubs should be advised of the need to check their policies.

SS

7) EBU Chairmen's meeting 29 June 2011 (Darren Evetts)

Darren Evetts attended the meeting. He had circulated all the papers relating to the meeting and did not propose to detail the meeting discussions, as most will be discussed at the AGM in October. However, it was noted that Sally Budgen was keen to ensure that we were all involved in succession planning, both for the EBU and the County.

8) Treasurer's report

The accounts were presented at the AGM. The profit from the Green Point event and the sponsorship money had been taken into this year's accounts. Leslie will shortly be issuing cheques for honorarium of £1,100 in total for the officers who are eligible to receive it.

LR

9) Competition Secretary's Report (Darren Evetts)

Rule changes were taken as read and agreed as follows:

1. Frank Cup
2. Goodman Cup
3. Warwickshire Pairs League
4. Warwickshire Teams League
5. Ladies Pairs Championship
6. Men's Pairs Championship
7. Mixed Pairs Championship
8. Seniors Pairs Championship

Discussion took place over the proposal to allow all the pairs in the top leagues of WPL, CPL and BPL directly into the Warwickshire Championship Pairs semi-finals. It was agreed that the top 50% of the pairs in the three leagues would be given exemption to the semi-final as long as they had not used substitutes. The Competition Committee will be asked to consider this. It is hoped that this change will increase the number of more experienced pairs competing in the competition.

EM

It was noted that the Peterborough venue for the regional final of the Garden Cities in Peterborough was well below acceptable standards. Darren Evetts indicated that WMBC had written to the EBU expressing their concerns and WMBC Board said it would not participate if appropriate action was not taken to ensure the suitability of the venue.

DE

10) Match Secretary's Report (Adrian Knight) – Written submission

The new season started with excellent wins against Staffordshire and Shropshire: Dawes 20 – 0, Porter 20 – 0, Markham 18 – 2. The county had three teams in the National League final competing in all three levels. Teams from as far apart as Devon and Cumbria played in the event. Warwickshire came 3rd in the first team event and 2nd in both the second and third team levels. It was a very credible performance, but was disappointing not to win one of the events.

It was noted that some teams in the Midlands Inter-County league were looking at a possible change to the format of the Inter-County League from 8 matches per season to three one day events for each of the three levels. It was felt, however, that this would significantly reduce participation. Adrian Knight will circulate the paper.

AK

Warwickshire have two semi-finalists in the NICKO – David Jones and Glyn Preece.

In the Pachabo Warwickshire came 7th out of 30 teams.

11) League Secretary's Report (Jon Downing)

Nothing to report.

12) Membership report (Sandra Squires)

Sandra reported that the county had received subscriptions from around 15 direct members compared to only 5 last year. The EBU collection of the subscription has helped increase the membership. All affiliated clubs have paid their membership fees for the year. There has been no major change in the membership numbers, which had shown a steady increase over the last year.

13) Secretarial (Sandra Squires)

- a) **Correspondence** – WMBC and the County have received a thank you letter from Sally Budgen, Chairman of the EBU, for hosting the Corn Cairdis
- b) **Calendar Updates** – All on website
- c) **Website** – 223627 hits to date. An increase of 15159 since the last meeting

14) Publicity (Nicky Cook)

No report

15) Newcomers Development (Peter Nicholds)

The Chick of the County was very successful with 23 pairs from 4 clubs. Numbers may be lower next year as the groups will be continuing into their second year. More clubs need to be encouraged to send their students.

Clubs

It was not possible to organise a stand at Birmingham University's Freshers' week as there has to be a group already in existence to participate. Perhaps the EBU need to be involved in this area.

A beginners Pivot teams will be held on 9th October at Northfield Bridge Club with each team being made up of one experienced teacher/player and three beginners.

16) AOB

Chris Harris is to represent the county at the Midlands Regional Club Committee meeting on 14 September 2011 at Spondon. The committee will elect a representative to serve on the National Club Committee and Chris will put himself forward for this office.

Next meeting - Wednesday 25 October 2011, 7pm @ WMBC. Coffee available on arrival.

Sandra Squires – August 2011