



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club

Monday 30 April 2012

Present: Darren Evetts (Chairman), Sandra Squires (Secretary and Membership Secretary), Elayne Meakin (Competitions Secretary), Leslie Reece (Treasurer), Jon Downing (League Secretary), Myra Scott (Newcomers Development Officer), Mike Thorley (Vice-Chairman), Adrian Knight (Match Secretary), Jane Hall, John Pyner, Jan Eden (Publicity Officer), Mike Meakin, Nick Woosnam, Chris Harris (Club Representative)

Congratulations were expressed to Maggs Pyner on being accepted on to the EBU panel of tournament directors.

1) Apologies

Hylde Townsend, George Cuthbertson, Peter Nicholds, Colin Lang (Ex-Officio Chairman), Carolyn Fisher, David Jones, Stephanie Galvin

2) Minutes of last meeting (17 January 2012)

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2012 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman

3) Matters Arising

- a) Database for players – Information still needed re teachers, but the database otherwise is up to date. Any amendments need to be sent to Ken Crane.
- b) County Charity Sims – Darren thanked Ian Mitchell and Michael Clarke from the EBU for managing the scoring of the event. Five Clubs took part. Thanks were expressed to David and Martin Jones for providing the commentary; to George Cuthbertson for formatting the booklets and to Sandra Squires for co-ordinating the event. Feedback from players and Clubs would be welcome. Leslie will provide a financial update when all monies are received.
- c) Midland Counties Congress – The 2013 Championship Pairs (Saturday) will be Blue Pointed (not Black pointed). Worcestershire are providing this day from their quota. Warwickshire already contributes one of their green point days to the congress. It is Warwickshire's turn to Chair the Congress and Jon Downing was duly elected.
- d) Succession planning – No updates.
- e) Shareholder visits to Clubs – John Pyner visited 3 Clubs: Kenilworth raised the issue of access to events for disabled players. The EBU make every effort to assist disabled players and provide stationary positions at events. No concerns were raised by Moseley, or Sutton Coldfield. Darren Evetts visited Northfield where no concerns were raised, and there were, in fact, positive comments. Further visits are planned. Colin Lang visited Arden, which went well and he has further visits organised for May.

4) Constitutional Amendments (Darren Evetts)

Darren reported that there had been no feedback on the proposed amendments. The main points were summarised and the committee approved them unanimously. They will be sent to the EBU for approval, and be tabled at the AGM. The committee thanked Colin Lang for all his hard work in this matter.

5) Treasurer's Report (Leslie Reece)

It has been a very successful year financially. There was a donation from The South Warwickshire Bridge League of £800 and sponsorship from Nicklin LLP of £750. P2P income was up by more than £1,000. Last year the county rebated 25% of the 7p fee to Clubs giving them a net cost of 5.25p per player session. This year it is proposed to rebate 2p giving a net cost of 5p. This puts Warwickshire in the lower half of the P2P scales. It is probable that the rebate will continue in 2012/13. Leslie Reece proposed that the rebate be 2p per player session. This was seconded by John Pyner and passed unanimously. The decision will go to the AGM for ratification.

The extra income has helped fund newcomers' events, the Tollemache team and TD training. The green point event in 2011 was a great success and led to a profit of £570 up on the previous year. The National Women's teams event made a small profit. The internal competitions broke even.

The costs for the external competitions were broadly in line with the previous year, although there was an additional cost for supporting the Corn Cardis event hosted by WMBC.

Jan Eden asked if the sponsorship was for one year or more. Sandra Squires agreed to look at the previous minutes to answer the query. (NOTE: The minutes of 19 April 2011 show that Nicklin are providing sponsorship at £750pa for TWO years – 2011/12 and 2012/13.)

6) EBU Shareholders meeting (John Pyner)

The EBU have had a most successful year financially. A projected loss of £43k has turned into an actual profit of £53k. P2P rates will be looked into at the October AGM.

The events at Brighton are being revamped in an effort to stop the decline in numbers. Details are in the EBU magazine and on the website.

It was noted that Clubs need to advise the EBU and the county of any changes to member's details, particularly after the death of a member, in order to avoid future correspondence being sent.

The problem of dual membership of counties has been discussed. Counties deal with this problem in differing ways. Locally there was a particular problem with Leicestershire members who play in Warwickshire events. After much discussion it was agreed to deal with specific issues on an ad hoc basis.

7) Competition Secretary's Report (Elayne Meakin)

The following competitions are still to be held: Mixed Pairs Final; Fledgling Pairs; Chick O' the County and Cock O' the County and a Seniors' Swiss Teams to be held on 5 July. All the competitions have gone well with increased attendance. The Newcomers' events have also had improved attendance.

A list of 2012/13 competition dates will be available at the AGM. It was decided that the competition entry fees would remain the same for the coming year at £4 per player, plus any food costs, and £70/£80 for WPL.

It was noted that any Club can now run a heat of the National Pairs competition. WMBC and Coventry have each agreed to run a heat.

Next year's events will be more or less the same as this year's. It was pleasing to note that the new seniors' competitions were well received. The BPL will continue on the first Wednesday of the month.

Executive meetings will be on Tuesdays or Wednesday and the actual dates are in the calendar. It was noted that the calendar is regularly updated on the website and, therefore, members should always check dates there.

Rules update.

- The changes to the rules for the following competitions were taken as read and were agreed unanimously.
 - Chick O' the County
 - Fledgling Pairs
 - Introductory Pairs
- The rule changes for WPL relate to the non-arrival of either a pair or a half pair and the method for dealing with the problem at the session. The changes were approved unanimously.
- The changes to the common rules for all competitions were taken as read and approved unanimously.

Darren Evetts thanked Elayne Meakin, George Cuthbertson, Mike Meakin, David Jones and Myra Scott for their work on the competition rules.

8) Match Secretary's Report (Adrian Knight)

The Midlands Inter-County League 2011/12 is now complete. The Dawes team came third, the Porter team second and the Markham team first, for the second year running, in their respective divisions. It was noted that 15 separate pairs had played for the Markham team. The new matches start in May. It is proposed to hold a meeting to discuss the format of the competition, which will be hosted by Warwickshire. Any proposals for change should be forwarded to Adrian.

The County won the Oxford invitational Beck Cup for a second year. The team was George Cuthbertson, Ian Handley, David Kenward and Roger Bryant.

9) League Secretary's Report (Jon Downing)

Jon thanked Ken Crane for his work in updating the results throughout the year. The Handicap cup was working well with one team from Division 1 and one team from Division 3 reaching the final.

There are still some matches to be played.

League 1 – 2 matches

League 2 – 5 matches

League 3 – 1 Match

These should all be completed by the AGM.

10) Club Representative Report (Chris Harris)

Chris Harris had circulated the minutes of the Regional Club committee. The committee is having problems as some members have had to resign for personal reasons. He noted that feedback from Clubs is very little, or even non-existent in some cases.

Chris proposes a round the table meeting with all of the Warwickshire Clubs in order to get feedback.

Blue Pointed events – it appears that the administration and format do not make them attractive. It is to be discussed at the next National Club Committee Meeting.

There has also been little take-up on stratification competitions. There are some articles in English bridge which explain further the benefits of this.

11) Newcomers' Development Report (Myra Scott)

Sue Ryles (Stratford BC) has resigned from the group. Her contribution to the group was much appreciated.

Having considered the activities currently being undertaken by the group it has been decided that it should be renamed the Player Development Group.

Competitions

Introductory Pairs - There was an entry of 13 tables this year from 6 Clubs and/or teacher groups.

Winners – Philip Williams & Bob Gunning, Arden

Runners up – Brian Mitchell & Liz Green, Arden

Novice Swiss Pairs - 22 Pairs took part, thanks to the efforts of the teachers at Stratford who hosted this event.

Winners - Alan & Vicky Greggs, Northfield

Hilary Lloyd & Val Young, Stratford

We need more for entries for the Fledgling & Chick Competitions

Meetings

Player Development Meeting with Club Representatives

The committee met with Club representatives and agreed a number of actions:

- compile a general programme of teaching contents suitable for students who have completed their basic learning
- collate a range of materials available
- clarify the terms used to describe different sessions and abilities
- prepare a list of ideas of Good Practice.

These will be presented to the next meeting on 3 July at WMBC

Teachers' Workshop

This is the first workshop we have held. It was a disappointing turn-out, but enjoyed and appreciated by those who attended (from 4 Clubs). Many thanks go to Pete Nicholds who led the session.

Initial drafts of the papers for the above meeting were distributed for discussion & comment.

12) Publicity Matters (Jan Eden)

A draft newsletter was distributed to the committee. Any comments should be directed to Jan Eden by email.

The newsletter is for all players and there will be a section for Club news and events. It is to be distributed twice a year, July and January/February. There may also be a newsletter for teachers. The deadline for Club information will be July.

13) Green Point Event (Sandra Squires)

Entries are coming in on a regular basis but there are few entries from Warwickshire. To date entries have been received from 14 different counties. It is expected that the table numbers will be around the same level as last year.

14) AGM Matters (Darren Evetts)

All current members of the committee have agreed to remain in office. Darren Evetts will collate the nominations.

15) National Women's Teams

Leaflets for the event are available. Members were asked to encourage lady members of their Clubs to enter. Teams can be up to 6 members with any 4 playing in any match. It is hoped that the event will attract 24 teams.

16) Secretarial

- a) **Correspondence** – Darren Evetts had distributed the EBU letter regarding the County Disciplinary process, which had previously been discussed.
- b) **Calendar Updates** – All on the website
- c) **Website** – 271537 hits to date. An increase of 17020 since the last meeting

17) AOB

- a) Darren Evetts advised that WMBC has started a Minibridge initiative with Dorridge Primary School. There are currently 24 pupils taking part with 40 children on the waiting list.
- b) David Jones is looking at an initiative to take bridge into a Coventry secondary school.
- c) Mike Meakin raised the question as to whether the county should keep a central record of psyches. After considerable discussion it was decided that the matter should go to the competitions committee.
- d) The Gold Cup and Senior Camrose are to be held at WMBC in December. Vugraph operators will be required.
- e) Myra Scott suggested that if the Minibridge initiative takes off a Youth Officer may be needed
- f) Members were asked to check if the secretary of the Club still receives a Club copy of The English Bridge magazine.

18) Next meeting - Wednesday 25 July 2012, 7pm @ WMBC. Coffee available on arrival.

Sandra Squires – May 2012