



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club

Wednesday 29 September 2010

Present:

Darren Evetts (Chairman), Sandra Squires (Secretary and Membership Secretary), Mike Thorley (Vice-Chairman), Leslie Reece (Treasurer), Adrian Knight (Match Secretary), Jon Downing (League Secretary), Myra Scott (Newcomers Development Officer), Nicky Cook (Publicity Officer), Colin Lang, John Pyner, David Jones, Carolyn Fisher, Stephanie Galvin

1) Apologies

Hylda Townsend, Peter Nicholds, Jane Hall, Elaine Meakin (Competitions Secretary), Mike Meakin, Nick Woosnam, David Hulston.

2) Minutes of last meeting (26 July 2010)

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2010 were taken as read and were amended as follows:

Page 2 – Treasurers report – Para 2 the words ‘in excess of £150’ were added after the word cheques. And ‘the’ was changed to ‘that’ in second sentence. Para 3 the word ‘of’ was inserted between the word list and fees.

Page 3 – EBU Meeting – Charitable status the word ‘auctioned’ was change to ‘actioned’.

The Chairman signed the amended minutes.

3) Matters Arising

- (a) Charity events – Darren Evetts wrote to the EBU who have responded that they will look at the situation for next year. Stratford upon Avon have been informed of this response.
- (b) Darren Evetts wrote to the EBU re the proposed qualification criteria for the NICKO and Garden Cities competitions. Nothing has yet been decided.

4) EBU Matters (Darren Evetts/John Pyner)

- (a) Clubs responses to EBU Governance suggestions

Option 1 – no changes to current system – 2 clubs

Option 2 – shareholders to be elected at county AGM – 2 clubs

One club would be happy with either option 1 or 2.

There was no support for either option 3 or 4.

There may be benefits from the shareholders being elected at the AGM. After discussion the committee voted to support Option 2. It was noted that the committee can advise the shareholders how they would prefer them to vote, but the shareholders can vote as they chose. The committee need to consider the length of tenure of the shareholders, but this was postponed until after the EBU decision.

(b) Proposal to change Green point license fees.

The EBU wish to revert to a fixed per table per session fee for County Green Point events. The present system gives Counties the option to either share 50% of the profit with the EBU or pay a per table per session fee of £7.50. It appears that there would be little effect on the county profit if the change were made depending on the level of the fee. There was considerable discussion on how the EBU might deal with counties who make losses. This will be voted on at the EBU AGM.

5) Treasurer's Report (Leslie Reece)

Income

The P2P income is very favourable being higher than expected. It is expected that the county may be able to reduce the fee from the current 7p to 6p. Colin Lang stated that the county had taken a conservative view based on the expectation of some larger clubs not affiliating. It was noted that the EBU were asking for a 3p rise in the P2P fee from 29p to 32p. This will be discussed at the EBU AGM in October. The 29p fee had been set based on 2007 costs.

It was agreed that before a reduction could be approved the treasurer needs to produce a budget for the next meeting show the effect of the reduction and also the effect if any of the clubs disaffiliated in April 2011. Darren Evetts agreed to help Leslie Reece produce the schedule.

Expenses

Leslie asked that all expense claims should have vouchers or invoice attached where possible. Travel expenses need to be clarified. It was agreed that second class rail fare or its equivalent would be the benchmark for claiming travel expenses, but no one travelling on behalf of the county should be out of pocket. Leslie is to monitor the system.

TD expenses

WPL – total of £90 per session. TD in charge £50, 2 trainees £10 each for travel and £20 to Elayne and Mike Meakin for travel and admin support.

All other sessions are £35 plus £10 travel costs. The fees were agreed unanimously.

Jeff Smith scoring – It was agreed to make a donation to Jeff Smith of £30 to cover the support received on the scoring system used by the county.

6) Competition Secretary's Report (Darren Evetts/Elayne Meakin)

Darren Evetts provided the update.

A number of amended competition rules had been circulated and were taken as read:

Common rules – no issues

Teams Leagues – no issues

Team Handicap – no issues

Goodman Cup – Qualifying via Frank cup – no issues

Championship pairs – David Jones expressed concerns over the requirement to achieve 50% or above in the competition, he felt that qualification should be based on position alone. As there is a limit on the number of tables available this year the 50% rule will remain, but it will be reviewed for next year's competition

WPL – Main changes are to Division C rules – no issues

All the above rules were adopted unanimously.

The committee expressed their thanks to George Cuthbertson for all his work on the above.

International Replay – this competition started in September and is an invitation only competition aimed at the top and up and coming pairs in the county. It is held on 2nd Thursday of the month and is an individual competition using Butler/Barometer scoring with boards taken from international competitions with sitting out players playing against the computer. No rules have yet been written, the completion will be reviewed at the end of the first year.

Frank Cup – Colin Lang is concerned that the format of the competition with the handicaps has not been well publicised. It was suggested that a new format of flyer was needed.

National Pairs Heat – to be held on Tuesday 11 January 2011 at West Midlands BC

Warwickshire Pairs and Mixed Pairs – dates are on the website for all clubs running heats. Some of these need to be amended as they are incorrect. Sandra Squires is to advise Elayne Meakin and Roger Twyman of the errors. Dates are to be added to the calendar.

Memorial Trophy – there was considerable discussion on the format of a memorial trophy for the county. We have received numerous offers of donations to a memorial for Steve Byrne. It was decided to set up a memorial fund which will provide trophies (plaques or similar) in the name(s) of the person(s) to be remembered for one event per year. It was suggested that for this year the prizes would go to the introductory pairs winners.

7) Membership Report (Sandra Squires)

Sandra reported that Kenilworth had now uploaded their membership data. As a result the county has 2067 members of affiliated clubs. In addition there are 79 BFA members and 29 members who have joined the EBU as direct members, but who have not yet joined the county. The list also highlights 54 people who were EBU members last year who do not belong to an affiliated club and have not joined the EBU directly.

A proposed letter and application form to be sent to direct members who have not yet joined the county was circulated. This was approved and Sandra Squires is to contact all direct members to ask them to join the county.

8) Match Secretary's Report (Adrian Knight)

The performance of the four pairs in the Edgar Foster Pairs Cups had been disappointing. The most recent match against Staffordshire had resulted in good wins for all three teams. The next match is against Oxford on 10 October.

The selection for the Tollemache Team is ongoing as some players will not be available for the first match. Players need to be advised that the composition of the team may change from semi final to final if the team qualifies. The county needs to confirm the policy. Feedback should be obtained from the captain and the players immediately after the first match. The captain should be involved with the selection committee re selection of the team.

9) League Secretary's Report (Jon Downing)

There is an increase in the number of teams taking part in the league – 23 in total (Div 1 (8), Div 2 (7), Div 3 (8)). There are 18 teams in the handicap competition one down from last year. Both competitions are running in the same format as last year.

10) Secretarial

(a) (i) The EBU will be setting up regional club representative committees and the county will need to nominate one person to represent the clubs on this committee. This is likely to be during 2011.

(ii) It was confirmed that Darren Evetts had replace Leslie Reece as one of the county shareholders

- (b) Calendar updates – International replay, mixed pairs and championship pairs dates added to the calendar.
- (c) Website usage – There have been 173472 hits on the website, an increase of 7619 since the July meeting.
- (d) Charity Simultaneous pairs – Ecats will be running the event again. David Jones has agreed to provide the commentary. The suggested donation from each player is £2.50. Five clubs have advised dates of heats. Moseley BC will be sending a donation. Sandra Squires to contact the other clubs to see if they are running a heat.

11) Newcomers Development (Myra Scott)

The introductory pairs had proved to be problematic this year due to the wide range of experience. It was proposed to run three newcomer pairs competitions and the rules for these were distributed.

Chick of County – for players completing their first year of bridge tuition. It will be played as a one session event on the afternoon of the AGM. There will be no charge to enter.

Fledgling pairs – for players completing their second year of bridge tuition. It will be played as heats in clubs with a final.

Introductory pairs – for players with less than 5 years playing experience. It will be played as heats in the clubs and a final held at the same time as the championship pairs.

The rules were adopted unanimously. The committee were given permission to modify the rules, if necessary, to make the competitions work.

It was noted that Peter Nicholds was teaching 16 groups of bridge players (approx 160 people) of varying standards from beginners to improvers.

The EBU Education Group had sent out a questionnaire to garner good practice from counties. Myra Scott agreed to complete the form on behalf of the county.

12) Green Point Event (22 May 2011)

- a) **Venue** – Coventry & North Warwickshire Bridge Club
- b) **Format** – Swiss Pairs
- c) **TDs** – Chief TD=David Jones, TD=Darren Evetts
- d) **Costs** – 50% split of profits with CNWBC
 - i) CNWBC will charge for boards @ £5 per set and handcopies at 5p per sheet all plus VAT is applicable.
- e) **Catering** – DJ/DE will liaise with the Club.
- f) **Bridgemate Scoring** – Units would be required from WM
- g) **Entry Fee** - £20 per player
- h) **Advertising** – Leaflets to be available at Malvern and MCC

13) AOB

Carolyn Fisher stated that West Midlands BC is hosting the Corn Cairdis (Cup of Friendship played between England and Ireland) competition. The club is hosting the players who are from the EBU, Irish Bridge Union, a county team and a club team. In addition to the Corn Cairdis an open teams event would also be run. She asked that the county consider co-hosting the event and to help financially by providing funding for the TD if it is necessary. This was agreed.

It was noted that having agreed by email to nominate Paul Hackett for the Tournament Committee our nomination was sent too late. Fortunately he had been nominated by another county.

14) Next meeting - Tuesday 7th December 2010 @ 7 pm @ WMBC. Coffee available on arrival.