

KCBA Committee Meeting 6th January 2019 Shareholder Report

The EBU AGM was held on the 28th November. It is book-ended by a degree of ceremonial events. It begins with the presentation of awards. Mainly Dimmie Fleming awards. Monica Aitkin was there and obviously delighted to receive her award. However many of the recipients had opted to receive their awards locally rather than at the AGM which perhaps questions the value of taking up such a large part of the meeting with them. At the end there is the beginning of the draw for the prizes related to simultaneous pairs events. These are then completed the next day in Aylesbury which rather begs the question as to why they could not all be done then.

The results of the elections are on the EBU website and there were reports from the officers which indicated how tight the finances of the EBU are and how dependent they are on maintaining USM income. This then led on to a membership campaign which has been trialled in Yorkshire and which the EBU is now attempting to roll-out in the rest of the country. This encompasses more than simply more teachers and classes. You may have seen that there is a new section of the EBU website devoted to the membership campaign. However to access most of the contents requires a password. Should we appoint a membership officer? I believe we can co-opt additional members on to the Committee or we could propose a change at the AGM to create such a post.

The AGM decided to abolish the mid-year shareholders meeting despite the Chairman stating in the EBU magazine that the shareholders could hold the Board to account. That will now only be once a year. Nevertheless he did also suggest in the magazine there should be some communication between the shareholders and the members in the county.

The other decision reported at the AGM which has a particular effect on Kent is that the selection committee has organised trials on almost every available date in 2019. In respect of events organised by the EBL and WBF there is not much which can be done about this. However the Selection Committee (rather than the

Tournament Panel) is responsible for the Premier League and they refuse to fix the dates even as much as a year in advance when counties are required to plan two years ahead. So this year the third weekend of the Premier League will again be held on the last weekend in October and clash with our congress. I made our case verbally at the AGM and the minutes are more conciliatory than the tone of the response at the meeting but I feel we should write to the EBU Chairman to express our view that Premier League dates should be set at least two years in advance and if the First Division had to be changed later because the WBF or EBL change dates then so be it but there is no reason to change the Second and Third Divisions.

In the meanwhile should we attempt to move our congress two weeks earlier where we would only clash with the Gold Cup final?

Other issues covered at the AGM were a report from EBED and, at a number of pre-meetings the EBU encouraged the formation of County Working Groups, including one in the South East, along the lines of that functioning in the Midlands. The almost unanimous view of the South Eastern counties was that where it is useful we do co-operate, for example, on Youth Bridge in Kent, Sussex and Surrey but that some permanent structure of meetings was neither necessary or desirable.

Paul Gibbons