

LEICESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday 2 December 2014 at 7.15 p.m.
Glenfield Memorial Hall, Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL**

Present: Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dean Benton, Henry Cooklin, Irene Krantz, Robert Northage, Dave Pollard – Chairman, Richard Smith, Brian Stockdale, Simon Stokes, Ken Vernon and Steve Wright.

- 1. Apologies for absence** were received from Dick Pathan and John Thompson.
- 2. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 15 September 2014** were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 3. Matters arising from the above not on this agenda** – no matters were raised.
- 4. EBU Matters:**
 - i) **Report of the EBU Shareholders Meeting held on 26 November 2014** – Robert Northage and Richard Smith had both attended the meeting. Richard reported that he had appreciated his first visit to the meeting and found it a valuable experience. He was thanked by the committee for the report he had distributed prior to this meeting.
 - ii) **Report of the Midland Counties Working Group held on 22 September 2014** – Dean Benton attended this meeting. The minutes of the meeting have been published on the EBU website. Dean advised members that our Fixtures Secretary Dick Pathan will be invited to attend the next meeting on 15 Jan 2015 at the West Midlands BC, Solihull when problems re the Midland Bridge League are to be discussed. Robert Northage said that 5 MBL counties now have their outstanding master points registered with negotiations in hand for the remaining counties involved.
 - iii) **Information received from Peter Stockdale** – who has now dispatched the first County News bulletin sent to all County chairpersons and secretaries. The bulletin is intended to provide more regular information to counties following a request at the County Chairpersons' meeting. [Pat Beasley will disseminate the information appropriately and bring copies to the LCBA meetings.](#)
- 5. Report of the meeting with Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire re the Green Point Events** – Dave Pollard and Henry Cooklin attended this meeting – report circulated by Dave. All three counties are finding it difficult to maintain numbers in the events. Nottinghamshire are keen to rotate the dates. It was agreed to split the money raised giving 50% of the proceeds to the organising county and splitting the remainder equally between the other two counties. The LCBA committee agreed with this decision and with the proposal that Leicestershire would charge £22.50 entrance fee in 2015 in line with Derbyshire. The event also needs to be prominently advertised on the LCBA website and fliers need to be sent to local clubs and Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire CBAs. It was also suggested that a non-expert prize may be appropriate for Leicestershire pairs/teams. At the meeting in Spondon, the possibility of reinstating the 3 Counties event on a weekday evening was raised. This was felt to be a non-starter due to the travelling time involved. Similarly a suggestion that a review of the Midlands League schedule was needed was not felt to be necessary as Robert had held such a review two years ago, Robert has been able to organise the 2015/16 programme with 7 rounds avoiding the summer months, as Lincolnshire have withdrawn from the MBL.
- 6. Appointment of a replacement LCBA EBU Shareholder** – in view of John Wilcox's resignation from the committee, Henry Cooklin proposed that Richard Smith be our second EBU Shareholder. This was unanimously agreed. [Pat Beasley will notify the EBU of the change.](#)

7. Treasurer's business – Henry Cooklin reported that the LCBA currently have a balance of £10,833. Around £2000 of this money is earmarked for the promotion of Education as pledged at the recent AGM. The only major expenditure had been £900 approximately for the Tollemache competition. Nottinghamshire had sent £225 pounds as the LCBA share of their Green Point event.

8. General Secretary's business to include:

- a) **the publication of the Executive Committee minutes on the website** – it was agreed that copies of approved minutes will be placed on the LCBA website under a suitable heading and form a permanent record of the meetings. [Pat Beasley will contact John Thompson.](#)
- b) **future procedure for handling any decision made by the Executive Committee which it is agreed should not be minuted at the time** – this item arose following an error by the Minutes Secretary following the Committee meeting held last December. Pat offered her most sincere apologies for failing to make absent members of the Committee aware of an item raised under AOB that she had been asked not to minute. Her omission was entirely inadvertent. Pat also apologised to the Chairman as her error and caused him an extra burden, Dave added his apologies.
- c) **LCBA life membership proposal** – A proposal for the award of a Life Membership was discussed. It was agreed [that the Chairman will contact the proposed recipient and then put the proposal to the LCBA at the 2015 AGM.](#)
- d) **2016 LCBA Green Point event** - Pat told the committee that she had received an Email from Peter Jordan on 13 November asking whether Leicestershire wished to enter the 2016 Green Point event. It transpired that she should have received a letter sent to all County Secretaries on 19 June with an attached entry form for completion by 8 September. The EBU had been informed that Pat had been included on the County Secretary circulation list since December last due to Robert's health problems. Pat had also informed the EBU of the membership of the 2014/15 committee very promptly. As directed by Peter Jordan, immediate discussion involving Dave and Robert took place. By Monday morning of 17 November, the entry form was with the EBU requesting the weekend of June 18/19 as our usual weekend in March included Mothers' Day. Bedfordshire objected to our selection of 19 June as it clashed with their event. To resolve this situation Robert proposed that our entry be changed to the selection of Saturdays 5 March and 18 June 2016. Robert reported that his analysis showed that this proposal would not greatly affect the costs involved. After discussion it was agreed that [Pat should contact the EBU to propose the amendment to our entry.](#)
- e) **Draft 2015/16 League programme** – this item is a last minute addition to the agenda. Richard Smith had contacted Pat requesting that a Wednesday be included in the 2015/16 events calendar for rearranged matches prior to the Christmas break. Pat presented dated League schedules showing that to retain the 2 week gap between League matches and insert a *free for rearrangements* in the schedule necessitated starting matches on 16 September 2015. After discussion, it was proposed by Henry Cooklin and Steve Wright that the current practice be retained. An amendment was then proposed by Robert Northage and Brian Stockdale to schedule the first 2 League matches for 23 and 30 September and include the *free* Wednesday prior to Christmas. This amended proposal was carried by 6 votes to 3. [Pat can now proceed to prepare the tournaments' schedule and venue bookings in collaboration with Neil and the Tournaments subcommittee.](#)

9. Fixtures Secretary's business – none raised

10. League Secretary's business – Richard Smith had circulated a report prior to the meeting. His main concern was match postponements - see Item 8e.

11. Tournaments Secretary's business – Neil Beasley had circulated a Tournaments report prior to the meeting. There were two additions to his report as Heat 3 of the Stanley Trophy had taken place and entries to the Leicestershire Cup had increased.

A complaint about the state of the room at the Rothley centre for the Josephs Bowl had been received. The room was cold due to the storage of beer barrels for a festival and was overcrowded with more tables than requested. Rothley Parish Council have apologised for this situation. The week of the beer festival will be avoided in future.

Neil told the committee, as requested, of the cost of purchasing sets of Bridgemates or Bridgepads for future discussion. [Brian Stockdale will report back on the use of Bridgepads at an event.](#)

Richard raised his dismay that the structure of the Pairs League had not been changed as had been suggested when it was realised that the entry was 24 pairs – a 25th pair had also applied but not a 26th. His comments provoked extensive discussion. Neil had included a proposal for a full review of the format for the competition in his report as he had received Emails on the subject.

12. Education Liaison business – Simon Stokes had sent his comprehensive Education Report to committee members prior to the meeting following the inaugural meeting of his subcommittee. Currently, Leicestershire is one of the counties with a very low proportion of EBUTA registered teachers compared with the number of EBU/LCBA members. Hence the priority to establish new EBUTA teachers. [Pat agreed to liaise with Simon/Paul re possible dates and venues for the Paul Bowyer lectures in 2015.](#) Paul is happy to offer the lectures with no price increase. [Simon will contact John Thompson about the need to set up a tuition area within the LCBA website.](#) Various suggestions were made about the content of such a site. Simon was told 'Well Done' and was thanked for his excellent report.

13. Membership Secretary's business – Pat Beasley reported that, currently, the membership of the EBU/LCBA is 925 + 14 dual members. 4 previously dual members have now transferred their allegiance to the LCBA and there is a new member of the Bradgate club playing in the League.

14. Webmaster's Business – In John Thompson's absence, the current lack of necessary information on the LCBA website was raised. After discussion, it was agreed that members should continue to send necessary items to John for publication and let the Chairman know if their item was not on the site within a 7 day period so that remedial action could be taken.

15. Dates of further Meetings: for information the dates booked are:

Thursday 5 March 2015 – Executive Committee Meeting at Glenfield Memorial Hall

Thursday 30 April 2015 – League Forum at the Rothley Centre

Monday 18 May 2015 – Executive Committee Meeting at Glenfield Memorial Hall

Wednesday 10 June 2015 – LCBA AGM and the Presentation of Prizes at Greenfields,

Loughborough followed by the Special Executive Committee Meeting to appoint subcommittees for 2015/16

Tuesday 8 September 2015 – Executive Committee Meeting at Glenfield Memorial Hall

Thursday 3 December 2015 – Executive Committee Meeting at Glenfield Memorial Hall

16. AOB – Brian Stockdale told us of a Gift Aid system details of which are on the EBU website which will need to be investigated.

Richard Smith told the committee that he feels that we are not connecting with our members. He feels that we need to develop a 'Mission Statement'. It was agreed to include this possibility as an item on the agenda for the March 2015 meeting.

Dean Benton said that the meeting was too long and suggested setting a time limit for future meetings.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Pat Beasley

7 December 2014