

LEICESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Thursday 29 November 2018 at 7.15 p.m.
Glenfield Memorial Hall, Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL**

Present: Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dean Benton, David Betterley, Henry Cooklin, Dick Pathan, David Pollard – Chairperson, Richard Rees, Simon Stokes, John Thompson and Steve Wright.
The invited guests Carol Fisher and Rebecca Ronan also attended the first part of the meeting

- 1. Apologies for absence:** were received from John Wilcox and Market Harborough BC
- 2. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 11 September 2018:** were approved after an adjustment to the recording of Item 13
- 3. Matters arising from the above not on this agenda:** none raised
- 4. EBU Matters:**
 - a) Report of the EBU Shareholders Meeting held on 28 November 2018:** David Pollard had attended this meeting on behalf of the LCBA. He had provided a brief report of the meeting prior to this meeting.
 - b) Consultation on refusal of membership:** Pat Beasley outlined the nature of this EBU proposal which basically is to enable the EBU to refuse membership of the EBU in future if deemed necessary.
 - c) Venues for EBED Training Courses:** EBED have invited counties to apply to run Training courses where there is a suitable venue available. Simon Stokes has already been in contact with EBU to offer the new County BC venue. Similarly the Ashby BC are also interested in seeing a local event.
 - d) Report of Midland Counties Working Group meeting held on 7 November 2018:** The minutes for this meeting have not yet been issued. Dean Benton reported that Warwickshire CBA have now withdrawn from the Group.
- 5. Chairman's business –**
 - a) Letter received from Grantham BC:** the Grantham BC representatives were at the meeting at the invitation of the LCBA committee following their letter appealing that the decision, taken at the League Forum, not to allow the club to play League matches at their home venue be reviewed. They explained that this decision meant that all their League matches were effectively 'away' fixtures for their members. This fact has led to the club having difficulties raising League teams due to the amount of travel involved. Hence their request to play their 'home' matches in Barrowby in Lincolnshire. Currently, the club's 'home' matches are played at Waltham where conditions are relatively cramped and all the kit needed has to be taken to the venue for every match. They stressed that, for these reasons, they are asking visiting League teams to drive the extra few miles which would add around 10 minutes journey time. After the Grantham BC representatives had left the meeting, it was pointed out that the 10 clubs who had attended the League Forum were not in favour of driving the extra miles to the venue at night. Steve Wright proposed – seconded by Henry Cooklin - that the Grantham BC should be asked to put their case in writing so that it can be circulated to all the LCBA League team members via their captains for discussion and review by the end of January 2019. Team captains will be asked to bring their replies to the end of season League Forum for the result. The LCBA committee will then rule on the matter at their meeting in May 2019.

b) Future Green Point events: The chairman and Robert Northage had attended a meeting with Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire CBAs at Spondon. At the meeting Robert had confirmed that he is happy to organise the March Green Point event in 2019 at Spondon. Robert is also interested in seeing future LCBA Green Point events played at the new County BC premises. David Pollard also said that the County BC are hoping that MBL home matches will be played at their new venue. Derbyshire CBA are planning a possible 'Bridge Festival' next May to include a Simultaneous Pairs event at more than one level.

- 6. Treasurer's business:** Henry Cooklin brought his written report to the meeting detailing the recent income and expenditure. The overall funds in hand are currently £8224. A further £122 has been received from the Derbyshire Green Point event.
- 7. General Secretary's business to include:**
 - a) Draft 2019/20 Calendar – League fixtures:** the proposed dates were accepted after discussion about the possibility of moving the League 14 match date to 8 April 2020 when the County schools will have closed for the Easter break. It was felt that this date may instead be used to fulfil any unplayed match.
 - b) Paul Bowyer Seminars 2019:** it was agreed the committee are happy for Paul to run these seminars. He will be contacted in due course.
In addition Pat told the committee that she will order the individual League trophies in January/February 2019 which is a quiet time for the engravers.
- 8. Fixtures Secretary's business:** Dick Pathan was pleased to report that currently the Dawes team are in first place after three matches. The Tollemache team were just short of qualifying for the final of the event. A consultation document had been received from the EBU about a possible change to the method of allocating teams to the Tollemache event to try to make each of the four pools of teams more equal. Some people feel that currently it is possible for some pools to be markedly stronger than others. Dick agreed to reply to the document after the consultation with the team members that is already in hand and to let the committee know of the outcome.
- 9. League Secretary's business:** John Wilcox had sent his apologies and report to the committee prior to the meeting. He is happy with the way this season's schedule has gone to date. The usual few routine problems are in hand.
- 10. Tournaments Secretary's business:** Neil Beasley had circulated his Tournaments report prior to the meeting. The Email from Anne Wright re the Stanley event was discussed. Plans are already in hand to review the 'expert status' at the next Tournaments subcommittee meeting in January 2019. In addition, the rules for entry to the competition, following a request for a relaxation of these rules suggested by the committee, will be reviewed at the same time.
- 11. Education Liaison business:** Simon Stokes suggested that the costs of organising the proposed Teacher Training course – see Item 4 c) – may be met from the Education budget. He hopes to be in a position to arrange an Education subcommittee meeting in the new year.
- 12. Membership Secretary's business:** Pat Beasley reported the deaths of Sylvia Horn of Blaby BC, Susan Bowyer of the County and Bradgate BCs and a founder member of the Clarendon team – obituary now on the LCBA website – and Peter Cooney of the County BC. Overall membership numbers 916.
- 13. AOB:** none raised.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.