

LEICESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 21 May 2019 at 7.15 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Stamford Street, Glenfield LE3 8DL

Present: Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dean Benton, David Betterley, Henry Cooklin, Dick Pathan, Dave Pollard - chair, Richard Rees, Simon Stokes, John Wilcox and Steve Wright

1. **Apology for absence:** was received from John Thompson as he has decided to retire from the committee.
2. **Minutes of the Executive committee Meeting of 11 March 2019:** were unanimously accepted as accurate.
3. **Matters arising from the above which are not on this agenda:** further to the meeting with the County BC re the hire of their new premises, Steve Wright had reported that the smaller room will only comfortably hold 8 tables for LCBA event purposes. As a result, the County BC has agreed to allow the LCBA to hire the larger room for the same fee for the Joyce Cup. Dave Pollard thanked Richard Rees for his contribution in agreeing hire charges with the County BC.
4. **EBU Matters:**
Report of the EBU Chairmen's Meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2019: Dave had circulated his report of the meeting. He also needed to report that, due to a loss of income, the P2P is likely to be increased by 2p for next year. **Planned Advanced and County Director Training courses:** Dave Pollard told the meeting that there will be a County TD course in September 2019.
5. **Report of the recent Midland Counties Working Group meeting:** Dean Benton had circulated his report of the meeting. He highlighted the concern over falling EBU membership levels. Hopefully there will be an input from EBED at a future meeting.
6. **Treasurer's business:** Henry Cooklin had circulated his report prior to the meeting. The accounts are now with the auditors. There is an expected loss of £1000 including depreciation of £604 on the LCBA's Bridgemates.
7. **General Secretary's business:**
 - a) **AGM Preparation:**
 - AGM agenda:** was agreed.
 - b) **Nominations and vacancies for the Executive Officers and Committee:** there will be 4 vacancies for Committee members as John Thompson has now decided to retire from the committee. There is also a vacancy for a Vice chairperson.
 - c) **Notification of Prize winners and their invitations to attend the AGM:** now in hand.
 - d) **Gift for the Guest of Honour:** a voucher for £25 will be purchased.
 - e) **Officers input to the Committee report:** now in hand
 - f) **Trophy Engraving:** now in hand. Pat Beasley warned that the Yates trophy may need replacing at the end as there is little space for further engraving.
8. **Fixtures Secretary's business:** Dick Pathan further reported that Lincolnshire still hope to re-join the MBL but not for the 2019/20 season. This will necessitate finding two extra Sunday dates. Leicestershire also hope to enter the National Teams Competition to be held in Coventry. The fee is £180. It was agreed that this is acceptable to the committee albeit it is not an event organised by the EBU but does have their approval.

Dick went on to praise the Dawes team for their excellent win of the trophy this season. The Team: played in all matches – Ian Bruce, Ben Norton, Nick Stevens, Simon Stokes – in 6 – Colin Dean, Duncan Happer, Dick Pathan – in 5 – Jim Mason – in 4 – Paul Bowyer – and in 1 – Rick Wilde.

- 9. League Secretary's business:** John Wilcox had circulated both his report and the minutes of the recent League forum prior to the meeting. He had reported that the survey as to whether the Grantham BC should be allowed to play their matches at their home Barrowby venue was equally divided. After discussion Steve Wright proposed that the club should be allowed to play at Barrowby next season after which another review will be organised. Dean Benton seconded the proposal which was unanimously accepted.
- 10. Tournament Secretary's business:** Neil Beasley had circulated his tournaments report and the minutes of the recent subcommittee meeting prior to the meeting. He highlighted the change to entrance requirements for the Stanley event and the proposed move of venue of the Buckby and Olga event. This move was then agreed. Following discussion of the TSC's proposal to move the Pairs League venue to the County BC, the move was agreed although Richard Rees pointed out that the northern clubs may not support it. The bridge tables etc., previously stored at the Greenfields venue, have now been moved to the County BC. The Midland Team Challenge event is scheduled for 7 July 2019 with up to 2 teams of 4 from each county. It was agreed to invite the winners of the Leicestershire Cup and the Butterworth Langley events to enter the event at the LCBA's expense with the winners of the Leicestershire Plate as reserves. Further discussion will be held regarding the possibility of setting up a new afternoon event. A need for a marketing subcommittee was also raised.
- 11. Education Secretary's business:** Notes of both the March and May subcommittee were circulated prior to the meeting. Simon Stokes was delighted to report the enthusiasm of the members of his subcommittee. The date for the proposed conference for clubs on bridge education is expected to be Friday 21 June 2019. Plans are also in hand to organise the proposed 'Learn about bridge in a weekend' hopefully on 31 August/1 September 2019 at the County BC. Paul Bowyer has been agreed to be involved in the event. Simon wished to record his thanks to Susie Tyler, June Dixon and Lyn Hilton for their invaluable help in the organisation of the Yates Cup event. Henry said how pleasing it is to learn how the subcommittee are buzzing with ideas for promoting the game of bridge.
- 12. Membership Secretary business:** Pat Beasley had circulated her report for the 2018/19 season prior to the meeting. The recorded EBU/LCBA membership has fallen from last year's 950 to 900. An analysis showed where the losses were. Part of the loss was due to the 13 recorded deaths across the year. Technically 12 new members were included. However, analysis indicated that there were in fact 8 new members. Of the 4 others, one seemed to have disappeared for some reason, one was a Derbyshire player of the Matlock BC and the remaining two were lapsed member renewals.
- 13. AOB:** Thanks were expressed to Henry Cooklin for his long valued service as the LCBA's treasurer and to John Thompson for his involvement over many years. Pat Beasley agreed to write to John on behalf of the committee.

The meeting finished at 9.05 p.m.

Date of next meeting Thursday 12 September 2019