

MINUTES OF THE LCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2 DECEMBER 2019

1. Present: Dean Benton (DB, Chairman), Dave Pollard (DP), Neil Beasley (NB), Pat Beasley (PB), Dick Pathan (DPa), John Wilcox (JW), Richard Rees (RR).

Apologies: Steve Wright (SW), Simon Stokes (SS), David Betterley (DCB).

The meeting started with a brief silence to reflect on the late Henry Cooklin's contribution to LCBA over the years. We also noted that Howard Leigh had resigned from the Committee.

2. Minutes of last meeting accepted as accurate.
3. Matters arising: DP and NB to discuss what is required re the Yates trophy.
4. EBU business. a) DP presented a report on the EBU AGM. The main items were the fees for 2020-21, which would increase in line with inflation, and the removal of the 50% county discount on competition P2P, which would cost LCBA an additional £200. There was also an encouraging contribution from EBED, which seems to be on a more business-like footing. b) DB reported on the last Midlands Counties Working Group meeting, where there was discussion of youth bridge and membership targets. The meeting made successful use of video conferencing.
5. Treasurer's report. RR presented a report in which he analysed income from competitions. All except the Pairs League run at a loss and in some cases prize money exceeds entry fees. The Midlands Counties League costs around £500 per year and the Bridge in a Weekend venture cost £380. RR said we need to decide what our priorities are and offered to put a paper together for the next meeting.
6. Secretary's business. a) DP presented a draft calendar for 2020-21. Since circulating it DPa had identified the MCL dates. DP to amend and recirculate to the committee and clubs. b) Paul Bowyer seminars 2020: DP to contact Paul. c) DP proposed a programme of committee meetings up to the 2021 AGM, which was accepted.
7. Fixtures Secretary's business. DPa reported that the Dawes team were leading their division after 3 matches, the Markham team was in 5th position but in the Porter, we were in last position. We agreed to thank County BC for their excellent hospitality for the home MCL matches. In the Tollemache qualifier Leics recovered from a bad start to finish third, just missing out on qualification for the final.
8. League Secretary's business. JW reported that there have been several postponements but no disputes or other issues.
9. Tournament Secretary's business. NB reported on the recent sub-committee meeting, which recommended not to resume club qualifying heats for the Gimson, to move the Stanley trophy to CBC for 2020-1, and to raise the table money to £5 per head (£7 for Sunday competitions). These proposals were all agreed. It was agreed to report the increase in table money to the AGM and noted that we will need to make consequential amendments to the rules of the competitions. So far there are 20 entries and 2 possibles for the Pairs League. We discussed the lack of heating at Rothley for the Josephs Bowl qualifier, which had led to a complaint, and RR agreed to seek a discount on the booking fee. DP to liaise with Richard Smith re the new date of 19 April 2020 for the Charity Swiss Teams.

10. Education secretary's business. SS had emailed a report prior to the meeting. There will be a teacher training weekend run by EBED at CBC on 21 and 22 March 2020. Where clubs send two members the second one goes free and we agreed to pay the costs of the first one. SS reported on the successful teaching programmes at CBC and Bradgate/Loughborough. DB to liaise with SS re Ashby's teaching programme, which resumes in January 2020.
11. Membership Secretary's business. PB reported that there have been four recent deaths. She has written an obituary for Henry Cooklin to go on the website. LCBA currently has 899 members, down 23 on the previous report.
12. Other business: a) RR has been asked by Rothley for a copy of our public liability insurance, which we don't have. DP to take advice from the EBU as to whether this is necessary and to contact Rothley. b) NB and PB gave notice that they intend to stand down from the LCBA Committee at the AGM 2021.

Meeting closed at 8.30.