

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 3 MARCH 2020

1. Present: Dean Benton (DB, Chair), Dave Pollard (DP), Neil Beasley (NB), Pat Beasley (PB), Richard Rees (RR), Dick Pathan (DPa), John Wilcox (JW).
2. Apologies: Steve Wright, Simon Stokes, David Betterley, Ruth Johnson (LoughboroughBC)
3. Minutes of last meeting agreed.
4. Matters arising: RR approached Rothley about the lack of heating for the Josephs heat and they agreed not to charge.
5. EBU matters: the EBU is offering non-affiliated clubs trial membership for a fixed period.
ACTION: DP to write to non-affiliated clubs and U3A bridge groups to convey the offer.
6. Midlands Counties Working Group. In addition to the above DB reported that a member of the group has been co-opted onto the EBU Board to progress its strategic aims.
7. General Secretary's business:
 - a) Calendar for 2020/21. MCL dates are not finalised. DP to arrange the calendar so that the April match does not clash with the Charity Swiss Teams event and recirculate to clubs.
 - b) We approved a proposal for Honorary Life Membership. DP to contact the person concerned.
 - c) AGM guest of honour. We identified two possibilities, DP to pursue.
 - d) Officers present agreed to serve another year in office. DP reported that Richard Smith was willing to continue as webmaster.
 - e) DB asked for officer input into his report to the AGM.
 - f) Trophies to be brought to the League Forum.
 - g) DP reported that he had dealt with a complaint from a club chairman and resolved the matter to that committee's satisfaction.
8. Fixtures Secretary's business: DPa reported that the Dawes team is lying second, despite having won all its matches, with a crunch match against the leaders to come. The Porter team is 6th and the Markham team 7th-. We agreed not to enter a team for the President's Cup.
9. League Secretary's business: JW had nothing to add to his written report.
10. Tournament Secretary's business: Bill Barclay has been co-opted onto the sub-committee. It was agreed to pay his fee for the County TD's course. Following research it was agreed that the Samani should be scored with imps instead of aggregate, with the handicap difference being 3 imps per league position. This is considered to give lower division league teams a higher chance of progressing. For 2020/21 the Leicestershire Cup will be entirely home play. There are 20 tables so far for the Green Point event. It was agreed that the GP events should come directly under the oversight of TSC.
11. Education business: DP reported that the sub-committee has reviewed last year's Bridge in a Weekend event with Paul Bowyer and planned to hold another one on 19 and 20 September 2020, linking to beginners' classes starting shortly afterwards. Paul has agreed to

deliver 4 seminars on Sunday afternoons in May and June, and players who represent Leicestershire should be encouraged to attend.

12. Membership Secretary's business: PB reported there are 920 LCBA members (+21 since last meeting) of which 29 are not currently active. The increase is due to an increase in the number of students (+26).
13. Treasurer's business: RR presented a report, saying it was based on the assumption that income and expenditure should balance, using the reserves for replacing equipment and unexpected items. He projects a loss for the current year. At present competitions overall do not cover their running costs; some make a profit and in others the prize money is greater than the entry fees. The aim would be to break even. We discussed several possible strategies and NB agreed to consult TSC and report back. The EBU's change to P2P will hit the League badly and JW had carried out a survey of team captains. We agreed to increase the entry fee to £45 per team and to replace the current trophies with certificates for the division winners, achieving a saving. We noted that the Green Point event generates income. On education we ring-fenced £2500 several years ago and are spending about £600 a year. We need to replenish this pot if spending on education is not to stop. We should aim to break even on Bridge in a Weekend. We noted that the Midlands Counties League requires a subsidy of around £900 and agreed that we should ask table money of £15 per pair home and away and pay mileage at 25p per mile. RR will try to renegotiate hire charges with CBC. We agreed that we would not subsidise pairs entering the Fritch but that we would continue to support players in the Tollemache, Corwen and Pachabo. We resolved to recommend to the AGM that the P2P figure should remain at 8p. We would make a further saving by not producing fixture cards as the information was readily available to clubs and on line.
14. Meeting closed at 9.20.