

NOTES OF LCBA COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM 26 MAY 2020

1. Present: D Benton (chair), D Pollard (minutes), N Beasley, P Beasley, D Pathan, R Rees, J Wilcox, S Wright, S Stokes.
2. Apologies: none.
3. Report from County Chairs meeting/on-line bridge. D Benton reported that the EBU has applied for a government grant and furloughed staff but its financial position in the current situation is parlous and it needs to maximise its income. At present this can only be from on-line bridge.

S Stokes reported that County Bridge Club are setting up a virtual bridge club and contacting their members to encourage them to go on-line. They hope to get everything in place to run an on-line event at the end of June. They are redesigning their website to make it on-line friendly. The Suffolk videos are a good introduction to what is involved.

D Benton said that Ashby has run a friendly knock-out to accustom members to on-line bridge. The committee is keeping members up-to-date and has updated its website. It is running a competition on 10 June and has continued its teaching programme on-line to those who wanted this.

R Rees said that there may be some interest in on-line bridge at Bradgate. It was also suggested that Market Harborough may be interested. It was agreed that we need publicity on the website.

It was agreed that D Pollard would contact clubs to find out the extent to which they were playing on-line and whether they need help from wither LCBA or from one of the clubs that have started on-line play. S Wright said afternoon bridge was better from the perspective of the BBO server.

4. D Pathan reported that the Midlands Counties have started to organise on-line teams of 4 competitions. A recent one was aimed at good club standard players, where the Leicestershire entry was quite successful, and the next one will be aimed at players of Dawes league standard. It was agreed that he would coordinate team selection in consultation with the Fixtures sub-committee. He reported that no decision has yet been taken as to how to finish the current Midlands Counties League.
5. N Beasley said that if we run our current competitions on-line the entry is likely to be significantly different. S Stokes said that teams of 4 competitions lend themselves to on-line play and if the players agreed, they could play the finals of the Josephs, Butterworth Langley and Leicestershire Cup on-line. It was reported that other counties were considering on-line competitions aimed at different levels (eg NGS 7 high).
6. J Wilcox reported that he had received little feedback from clubs on the decision to end the League.

7. R Rees reported that the current situation has a neutral effect on finances, as we are getting neither income nor expenditure. We have reserves of £6,500+ and can eat into some of that if required.
8. It was agreed to delay the AGM until further notice. All present agreed to retain their current roles for the time being.
9. We agreed to hold another meeting via Zoom towards the end of June. Date to be arranged by D Benton, D Pollard and S Wright, who was thanked for facilitating the meeting.