

NOTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING BY ZOOM 30 JUNE 2020

1. Present: Dean Benton (Chair), Dave Pollard (minutes), Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Steve Wright, John Wilcox, Richard Rees, Dick Pathan.

Apologies: David Betterley.

2. Minutes of meeting of 26 May 2020 were accepted as a correct record.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. EBU matters. DP reported that the EBU has issued guidance on physical separation at bridge, which is about 60 cm round a table. They do not consider plastic screens to be a proven form of mitigation. It was reported that Rugby Village BC were restarting in July though it was unclear how distancing would be achieved.
5. Midland Counties Working Group. DB reported that MCWG is forming three sub-groups a) one technical and linking with EBED, b) one around delivering bridge teaching and c) one working on the role of non-affiliated clubs and how all bridge players could interrelate to the EBU. Membership of the group has expanded to cover parts of East Anglia and the south west.
6. Treasurer's business. RR had circulated the as yet unaudited accounts and notes thereto. He had identified some errors in the previous year's accounts and corrected them via a prior year adjustment. Competition income is slightly better than it would have been without the pandemic. Reserves stand at around £6700. He still needs to agree with County BC rates for future Midlands Counties League matches.
7. General Secretary's business. A) Online bridge. DP reported that he had received little response from clubs to his letter asking whether they needed help from LCBA. County and Ashby had formed virtual clubs and Bradgate expected to do so shortly, using EBU TDs. Grantham is running an online pairs league and there is some activity at Market Harborough. DB proposed to run a LCBA organised online open pairs event on Saturday mornings. It was **agreed** to form a TSC for online bridge to consist of Bill Barclay, Richard Smith, Steve Wright, all of whom were willing to be involved, and Dean Benton and Dave Pollard ex officio. It was **agreed** DB would approach Bill Barclay with a view to co-option onto the Executive Committee. (DB subsequently confirmed that he accepted). It was reported that Ashby and Teachers were delivering some online teaching. B) DP reported that County BC had offered to assist clubs to restart face to face bridge by providing their venue free. DP **agreed** to inform clubs. C) It was agreed to hold the AGM on Zoom, if possible around mid-September. There is a need to elect officers, get the accounts agreed and report on future LCBA activities online and face to face. Up to 100 laptops can join. There is a helpful document from Suffolk CBA, who have tried this. SW has examined this and considers it feasible.
8. Fixtures Secretary's business. D Pathan said the 2019-20 Midlands Counties League has not been finalised and there is no agreed method for doing so. There is no idea when or if the 2020-21 season will start. There had been an inter-county match for teams of 4 rated AC or K in the NGS. There was an issue with a lack of consistency in that not everyone used the same boards.
9. League Secretary's business. JW had nothing to report. NB had discovered a fault in the league management system which credited some players with extra master points when a club had two or more teams in the same division. The EBU plans to fix this.

10. Tournament Secretary's business. NB identified three issues where a decision was required.
A) It was **agreed** that incomplete knockout matches can be completed online if both captains agree and approach Robert Northage as competition controller. B) It was **agreed** to finalise the Pairs League based on the three heats played, with reduced prizes and a refund of part of the table money. C) It was **agreed** that cash prizes for competitions that would normally be awarded at the AGM would be paid now. RR and NB to liaise.
11. Education Secretary's business. There was no report. DP **agreed** to liaise with CBC, Simon Stokes and Paul Bowyer re the feasibility of the proposed Bridge in a Weekend event scheduled for September.
12. Membership Secretary's business. PB presented a report for the year. Membership for the year had increased slightly, because the number of student members more than compensated for the loss of other players. We expressed our gratitude to bridge teachers for their efforts in achieving this. PB reported a total of 15 deaths during the year.
13. Date of next meeting 28 July 2020 at 7.15 via Zoom. Meeting closed at 8.25.