

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LCBA HELD VIA ZOOM ON 28 JULY 2020

1. Present: Dean Benton (chair), Dave Pollard (notes), Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Richard Rees, Dick Pathan, Steve Wright.
2. Apologies: Bill Barclay.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 30 June 2020 were agreed. No matters arising.
4. EBU matters. DP introduced the EBU strategy update he had previously circulated. The EBU is reviewing its 2018-23 strategy in light of the pandemic and consulting on creating vision, mission and values statements. He said he found previous EBU approaches to be top down and welcomed the change in emphasis. We agreed that the new normal would be different and what the EBU do will be contingent on its finances, which are likely to be difficult.
5. Midland Counties Working Group. DB submits a written report of LCBA activities to this weekly meeting. Its working groups are active in a range of areas.
6. Treasurer's report. RR has paid out prize money for completed competitions. The accounts for 2019-20 are unaudited and he would ideally like to involve an LCBA member. The meeting made a number of suggestions. It was confirmed that players in the Pairs League have not yet been notified of the refund.
7. General Secretary's report. a) Online bridge. DP reported that the LCBA Saturday pairs competition will start on 1 August and fortnightly thereafter. Bradgate has set up a virtual club and has got 14-15 tables, using EBU TDs. Loughborough plans to start a virtual club on Thursday evenings. b) DP has had contact from Glenfield Village Hall about arrangements for reopening. We agreed that the committee room does not permit social distancing and that we would continue to meet via Zoom for the time being. c) The meeting agreed to hold the AGM via Zoom on 30 September 2020. DP agreed to publicise the meeting via clubs and lists of players who enter LCBA competitions, sending out an agenda, inviting committee nominations and motions and indicating that there would be discussion of the way ahead in the absence of face to face bridge. We would also need to propose a change to paragraph 6.1 of the constitution to move the AGM to September on a permanent basis. People wishing to take part would have to register an email address and would be sent a zoom link and a copy of the agenda and financial report.
8. Fixtures Secretary. DB said the MCWG had agreed that the Dawes League 2019-20 would be completed face to face when that is possible. DPa reported on the proposal that the MCL 2020-21 should be played online. He had consulted players and there was relatively little interest. The Dawes team would likely be weakened. We agreed to support the proposals at this point. DP had an approach from Lincs re online inter-county matches aimed at varying NGS standards, e.g. J and above, 7 and below. He had forwarded this to virtual clubs with a view to gauging interest.
9. League Secretary. No report. DB agreed to check with the League Secretary as to progress on producing certificates for league winners instead of trophies.
10. Tournament Secretary. NB produced a proposal on prize money that cut out lower prizes and saved around £650. It was agreed to apply this for 2020-21 and hold a discussion on whether to retain prize money at the 2021 AGM provided that it was held face to face. We would tell the AGM that we would run scheduled competitions for 2020-21 face to face if possible, and if not online for one year. The arrangements for completion of outstanding teams events from 2019-20 were clarified and NB agreed to pursue.

11. Education. It was agreed that it was not feasible to run the Bridge in a Weekend event this year. DP to inform all concerned.
12. Membership. PB reported that we have 921 members, with one recent death.
13. AOB: none.
14. Date of next meeting: 26 August 2020 at 7.15 via Zoom. Meeting closed at 8.35.