

MINUTES OF LCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 28/10/20

1. Present: Dean Benton (chair), Dave Pollard (minutes), Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dick Pathan, John Wilcox, Steve Wright, Bill Barclay, Richard Rees.
Apologies: David Betterley.
2. Minutes of meeting of 26 August and 30 September 2020 approved.
3. Matters arising: John still has in hand the question of certificates for division winners.
4. EBU matters. a) Dave informed the EBU that our preferred option re UMS consultation is no change and was told that was the majority view to date. b) the EBU AGM is on 25 November 2020. Dave to circulate papers to Executive Committee and arrange for them to go on the website. c) Dean reported that the EBU had agreed to amend the citation for Pat's Dimmie Fleming award.
5. Midlands Counties Working Group. Dean reported on possible developments in collection of table money for face to face bridge. There had been an issue re the break in the Midlands Counties Online matches. The January match date has been put back a week to avoid a clash. Dick to inform the Leics players. MCWG is considering a pairs competition for lower NGS ranked players.
6. Treasurer's business. Richard had circulated a report. There has been little action on the bank account and money has been coming in from the EBU for online games. Some 2019-20 prize money is still to be paid because the competitions have yet to be finished. There will be a saving as LCBA is not entering a Tollemache team this year; there was insufficient interest from players of the required standard.
7. Fixtures Secretary's business. Dick reported that the Midlands Counties Online matches have been well set up. The first match was v Worcs and all three teams won, with a particularly good win in Division 3. Dick said we could do with a larger pool of online players and Dave agreed to contact clubs to invite them to put forward possible pairs/candidates.
8. League Secretary's business. After discussion it was agreed that it would not be possible to run the League this season, even in a truncated form. However, it is planned to do so from September 2021.
9. Tournament Secretary's business. Neil, John and Dave to draw up a calendar of events for 2021-2.
10. Education Secretary's business. None.
11. Membership Secretary's business. We have 946 members, of which 26 are direct and 51 students. Richard reported that Charnwood Bridge Teachers had enrolled their students in the EBU and were running an online night to accustom them to duplicate play. Pat reported on three deaths.

12. General Secretary's business. Dave had circulated a paper on competitions and possible arrangements for 2020-21 and Bill his notes of an EBU discussion on online bridge. We agreed the following:

- It was most unlikely that we would be able to play existing LCBA competitions face to face in 2020-21 and we would abandon the programme on the basis that if circumstances and government regulations change we can revert to face to face bridge.
- We would not play an online competition for current trophies but that would not prevent us from running a similar kind of competition online (e.g. we would not play the Otto and Edith online but that would not preclude us from running an online mixed pairs competition).
- There will be a deadline of August 2021 for unfinished 2019-20 teams of 4 competitions, which must be finished online if face to face bridge remains impossible.
- The online sub-committee will convene a meeting, assess the appetite for future competitions and draw up a programme to follow on from current online competitions, with Neil to be involved.
- We will evaluate what different online bridge platforms have to offer and how they suit our needs.
- Dave will write to clubs to communicate our decisions and set out what support LCBA can offer in terms of online bridge.

Rutland BC is playing online and involving Oakham BC. Similarly, Ashby is involving Bagworth and potentially Market Bosworth clubs. Thurnby is also said to be interested in starting online bridge.

13. AOB: none.

14. Date of next meeting Thursday 26 November at 7.15 with report back from the EBU AGM. Meeting closed at 8.40.