

MINUTES OF MEETING OF LCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VIA ZOOM 26/11/20

1. Present: Dean Benton (chair), Dave Pollard (minutes), Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dick Pathan, John Wilcox, Richard Rees, Steve Wright and Bill Barclay. There were no apologies.
2. Minutes of meeting of 28 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. EBU matters. Dave Pollard spoke to the report he had circulated. The meeting had discussed three resolutions: to add another EBU director with a focus on clubs and players, to amend the byelaws to make it clear that they applied to online bridge and to change the disciplinary procedures to address the question of online cheating. There was a lot of discussion on the third in particular but all three were passed. EBU finances were discussed and because of the pandemic the EBU is facing a significant deficit this financial year although online revenues are higher than expected. Following a consultation UMS fees will remain the same, but the meeting agreed that the EBU could raise them by 1p if necessary subject to two months' notice. The meeting suggested that county associations might wish to waive some or all of their share of UMS. We agreed not to do this.
5. Midlands Counties Working Group. Dean Benton reported details of a spade system of collection of table money, which involved a graduated fee paid up front. Bill Barclay noted that Grantham invoices its players monthly in arrears, which is successful. It is proposed to run a Midlands Online Cross Counties teams of 4 event at the end of January for players of NGS8 and below. Dave Pollard to publicise with clubs to get possible entries and to arrange for it to be publicised on the website.
6. Treasurer's business: none.
7. General Secretary's business. Dave Pollard had circulated two draft calendars. The first is for a face to face 2021-22 season with league dates and dates of competitions. The calendar will need finalised Midlands Counties League dates but Dave is to circulate it to clubs in draft and arrange provisional room bookings. The second is an online calendar for the remainder of the 2020-21 season. It mirrors events in the original face to face calendar but the trophies are not being played for. Bill Barclay introduced his proposed competition involving a club qualifier heat and a county final. The student events could be a one-off no fear event. It is proposed to run a single event for NGS9 and below with a view to starting a teams competition for these players if there is sufficient demand. Dave Pollard to circulate to clubs. Neil Beasley undertook to phone Robert Northage about the March Green Point event.
8. Fixtures Secretary's business. Dick Pathan reported on the latest match in the Midlands Counties Online League. Leicestershire performed disappointingly in Divisions 1 and 2 but had a good win in Division 3, and this team leads its division. We will be billed for UMS for this league.
9. League Secretary's business: none.

10. Tournament Secretary's business: none.
11. Education Secretary's business: none.
12. Membership Secretary's business: none.
13. Other business. Bill Barclay advertised forthcoming taster sessions on RealBridge. John Wilcox questioned whether RealBridge would be suitable for students who had learned via BBO.
14. Date of next meeting Thursday 28 January 2021 and a Happy Christmas and New Year to all my readers.