

MINUTES OF THE LCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 25/3/21 VIA ZOOM

1. Present: Dean Benton (chair), Neil Beasley, Pat Beasley, Dick Pathan, John Wilcox, Steve Wright, Richard Rees, Simon Stokes, Dave Pollard (notes). Apologies: Bill Barclay.
2. Minutes of last meeting were accepted as accurate.
3. Matters arising: Richard Rees will take over the membership role from Pat Beasley at the AGM. Richard said he has not been asked to pay fees for online TDs. Dave Pollard to remind online TDs of this facility.
4. Midlands Counties Working Group. Dean Benton reported that 16 counties are now attending. There is a consensus that the players prefer BBO to RealBridge. Derbyshire intend to return to face to face bridge in September with distancing of tables but no other specific precautions. Dean reported on apps that are being developed for the collection of table money and Simon Stokes said that County BC are looking at this.
5. Treasurer's business. Richard Rees had circulated notes showing income to date as £2000 and expenditure as less than £500. Online competitions have had a big positive impact on finances.
6. General Secretary's business. A) online bridge. Dave Pollard updated the meeting on the competitions held and planned. The Swiss pairs on 27/3/21 did not look viable and it was agreed to cancel it. Richard Rees asked that players who have paid should contact him with their bank details for a refund. Loughborough has decided not to hold a heat for the Club Pairs competition; Dean agreed to check out the position re Ashby. B) It was agreed not to enter the Pachabo, Corwen and President's Cup. C) It was reported that BBO are developing a platform with a video offering.
7. Fixtures Secretary's business. Dick Pathan reported on a good win for all three teams against Lincolnshire and three heavy defeats against Oxfordshire. At present we are 6th in division 1, 5th in division 2 and 1st = in division 3. The majority of players would prefer to return to face to face bridge in the Midlands Counties League from next season. Dick added that Leicestershire entered three teams in the Midlands Cross Counties Swiss Teams in January with the highest placed finishing 6th out of 46. There is a similar competition on 27/3/21 and one team wishes to enter.
8. League Secretary's business. John Wilcox led a discussion about plans for 2021-2 league season. It was uncertain what the take-up would be for face to face league bridge and teams of 8 matches are difficult to set up online. The consensus was that we should hold an online teams of 4 competition before Christmas, possibly on a Swiss format to give flexibility over dates, and aim to resume face to face teams of 8 in January. John agreed to discuss with the League sub-committee and consult clubs to see what they prefer.

9. Tournament Secretary's business. Neil Beasley reported that we have a calendar of events from September but that he is waiting to see what is feasible. Dave Pollard to contact our venues to find out when they are likely to reopen. Simon Stokes said that County BC hopes to reopen in the autumn. Richard Rees said that Rothley is having building works and the position is unclear. Neil is working towards a smooth handover of TSC business at the AGM.
10. Education Secretary's business. Simon Stokes said there is teaching at club level with very encouraging take-up at County and Charnwood, where students are feeding into gentle club sessions. There are some advantages in online teaching over face to face. There is also teaching at Ashby and Grantham. Simon agreed to arrange a Zoom meeting of the education sub-committee to pull things together.
11. Membership Secretary's business. Pat Beasley reported on 7 deaths since the last meeting, including some prominent county players.
12. Any other business: none.
13. Date of next meeting: 27 May 2021.