

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 29 NOVEMBER 2021 AT COUNTY BRIDGE CLUB

1. Present: Dean Benton (Chair), Dave Pollard (minutes), Dick Pathan, John Wilcox, Simon Stokes, Bill Barclay, Anne Wright, Anthea Byrne and Charles Gurr.
2. Apologies: Steve Wright and Richard Rees.
3. Dean Benton started the meeting by presenting Dimmie Fleming awards to Dick Pathan and John Wilcox, which had recently been made by the EBU in recognition of their long service to bridge in Leicestershire. He read the citations and Dick and John responded.
4. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 29 July 2021 were approved as accurate.
5. Matters arising: the certificate for league division winners is on hold while no league activity is taking place.
6. Minutes of the Special Executive Committee meeting of 15 September 2021 were approved as accurate.
7. Matters arising: vacancy on the Investigatory Committee. John Wilcox offered to ask Brian Stockdale if he was willing to fill it (N.B. post meeting John approached Brian and he agreed).
8. Midlands Counties Working Group. Dean Benton reported that we can advertise events in Leicestershire on the EBU calendar by adding them. The NGS 6 High Swiss pairs on 27 November was cancelled because of insufficient entries. One team from Grantham had entered.
9. Treasurer's business. Richard Rees circulated a written report showing that LCBA has £10835 in the bank.
10. General Secretary's business. A) Dave Pollard previewed the EBU AGM the following day. EBU proposed to increase the UMS fee by 2p to 42p and make various other increases. Dean Benton noted that the EBU needed significant government help to get through the pandemic and it was agreed to support the proposal. The other issue was online cheating, where there was dissatisfaction with the procedures and delays by the EBU. We agreed that it was wrong to suspend members prior to investigation and to publish names before the procedure is complete. Other proposals were to abolish the current investigatory bodies and refer all cheating to the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee, which was felt to be impracticable due to the number of reported cases. B) The EBU is offering unaffiliated clubs free membership until August 2022. Dave Pollard to contact unaffiliated clubs in Leicestershire that we know about with the details. C) We reviewed how the return to face to face bridge was going across the county. There is a mixed picture, with numbers generally reduced and some clubs not functioning. Those clubs offering online bridge had identified a continuing need.

11. Vice-Chair's report. Anne Wright produced a report to set out her priorities for when she takes over the chair. This involved attracting new players, especially from universities and schools and identifying players' requirements. Dean Benton proposed a small working group of himself, Anne and Anthea Byrne to pursue the ideas.
12. Fixtures Secretary's business. There is one outstanding MCL fixture from 2019-20 to be played but the opposition had no interest in playing it. In 2021-2 there have been three online matches so far. Leicestershire is 5th in division 1, 6th in division 2 and 3rd in division 3. Dick pointed to the creditable start made by a new pair in the third team but added that the top players did not play online. He thanked Bill Barclay for setting up online county matches on RealBridge. We did not enter a team for the Tollemache this year.
13. League Secretary's business. John Wilcox produced a paper about the future of the teams of 8 league. It was agreed to aim to restart it in September 2022 and review the position in the spring.
14. Tournament Secretary's business. Steve Wright circulated a report with results. It was agreed to keep the table money at £4 per head for face to face competitions to encourage entries. Dave Pollard to advertise the Josephs Bowl among players and clubs.
15. Education Secretary's business. The sub-committee has gained new members, particularly with an interest in bridge for young people. Simon Stokes undertook to arrange a face to face meeting of the sub-committee shortly to pursue these and other ideas.
16. Membership Secretary's business. Richard Rees circulated a report showing membership as broadly steady. Three deaths were reported.
17. Other business: next meeting Thursday 27 January 2022 at 7.15 on Zoom. Meeting closed at 8.55.