

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

29 MARCH 2022 VIA ZOOM

Present: Dean Benton (chair), Anne Wright, Richard Rees, John Wilcox, Dick Pathan, Bill Barclay, Anthea Byrne, Charles Gurr, Dave Pollard (notes).

1. Apologies: Steve Wright, Simon Stokes.
2. Minutes of meeting of 27 January 2022 were agreed as accurate.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. Midlands Counties Working Group. Dean Benton had nothing to report.
5. Treasurer's report: written. LCBA has £12,000 in the bank and income from P2P and BBO has exceeded expenditure, though bills for F2F competitions are now coming in. Richard Rees has repaid entry fees from the Green Point event, but there is still some money to come in from the Josephs Bowl and Pairs League. Richard explained how he proposed to deal with the refund from the 2019-20 Pairs League for those players who are not playing in the current Pairs League.
6. General Secretary's report. Dave Pollard gave a resume of where clubs are re face to face bridge. He had been informed that Goodwood has closed and that Melton is considering this. Other clubs were suffering low attendances, though it was reported that clubs moving to daytime bridge were having more success. We discussed the EBU's marketing offer, which is aimed more at encouraging people to take up the game, and the clubs who offer teaching explained how they intended to dovetail the material into their forthcoming programmes. Dave also reported that Richard Smith is revamping the LCBA website.
7. Vice-Chairs's report. Anne Wright has been in contact with an EBU officer who will deliver training for bridge teachers of children with a view to getting into schools.
8. Fixtures Secretary's report. Dick Pathan informed the meeting that in the Midlands Counties League the first and third teams finished fourth but the second team finished 8th. He thanked Bill Barclay for setting up the home matches on RealBridge. It was not yet clear whether the MCL matches in 2022-23 will be online or face to face.
9. League Secretary's report. John Wilcox intends to carry out a survey of the feasibility of resuming the league in 2022-23.
10. Tournament Secretary's report: written. We are planning a survey of players to establish which competitions are viable and what the future balance should be between face to face and online. The Green Point event did not prove viable and there was only one entry for the Wilde Cup. Numbers for the later rounds of the Stanley are low. Other competitions are running without problems.

11. Education Secretary. It was agreed to co-opt Anthea Byrne as education secretary and to thank Simon Stokes for his work over the past years. Anthea outlined the initiatives she wishes to start with. They include a teach bridge in a weekend, a workshop for TDs, sessions run by Ben Norton for which there would be a charge and lectures on defence by Paul Bowyer. She will arrange a meeting of the sub-committee.
12. Membership Secretary: written report. Richard Rees explained that the membership position is unclear post Covid and is likely to remain so until clubs resume face to face bridge in full.
13. Other business: it was agreed to hold the next meeting on 30 June 2022 on Zoom.