

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

30 JUNE 2022 VIA ZOOM

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

1. Apologies: none.
2. Minutes of the last meeting accepted as accurate.
3. Matters arising: none.
4. Midlands Counties Working Group. Dean Benton reported that it was the most successful of the EBU working group and attracted input from counties outside the midlands. He reported that the EBU offer of trial affiliation to non-affiliated clubs had generated little interest other than Hoby BC, John Wilcox asked whether John Storer House had taken this up. Dean also reported back on the county chairs' meeting at which a focus had been on youth bridge.
5. Treasurer's business. Richard Rees had circulated a written report showing that we have £11700 in the bank. Income was £3000 and expenditure £1000, though we are now starting to pay the costs associated with face-to-face competitions. The meeting approved County BC's revised charges for using CBC for LCBA competitions. Richard has tried to give refunds for the 2019-20 Pairs League, but some people wanted this to be donated to charity. We agreed to donate this sum to EBED. Richard is making payments direct to winners of 2019-20 competitions that are unfinished, in which connection Simon Stokes agreed to provide dates for his opponents.
6. General Secretary's Business. Dave Pollard reported on preparation for the AGM. He has arranged for Pat Beasley to be guest of honour and will do the notification to clubs in mid-July. Trophies will be engraved in August. He checked whether current officers wished to remain in post. Dick Pathan indicated that he would prefer to stand down as Fixtures Secretary but would continue in the absence of another candidate. Steve Wright said that due to work pressures he would like to stand down as Tournament Secretary and Bill Barclay agreed to take this role on. Anne Wright proposed to approach a possible candidate for vice chair. Dave further reported that Melton and Lutterworth BC had closed. Other clubs reported progress in resuming face to face bridge.
7. Vice-Chair's business. Anne Wright reported on the difficulties she was experiencing in getting DBS checks done by the school she was hoping to teach in. we agreed in principle that LCBA should fund these checks if necessary.
8. Fixtures Secretary's Business. Dick Pathan reported that the Midlands Counties League would continue in 2022-3 as before with the option of encouraging face to face bridge if possible.

9. League and Tournament Secretaries' Business. Dave Pollard had circulated a discussion paper on the survey of LCBA members. About 100 replied and he set out the issues to decide: what should the balance be in future between face to face and online competitions, what format, if any, should the league take, and which competitions should be retained. There was general agreement that it was not feasible to run a teams of 8 league starting in September and that the overview of the league should fall within the purview of TSC. It was agreed that TSC should draw up a calendar of events with some online, a trial of daytime events and a reduced programme, with repurposing of some of our existing trophies.
10. Education Secretary's Business. We agreed to run a Bridge in a Weekend venture on September 10 and 11 with Paul Bowyer and/or ANO. His defence seminars have been paused but the first Ben Norton seminar was very successful. We agreed to ask Ben to deliver further seminars. We also agreed to ask Paul to resume the seminars for aspiring county players in summer 2023. Dick agreed to approach him or Ben about this.
11. Membership Secretary's business. Richard Rees reported that we have 978 members but it still unclear out of that number who has returned to playing bridge. Some of the people listed by the EBU are clearly not Leicestershire members. He reported three deaths.
12. Other business. The next meeting will be the AGM, followed by the special meeting to determine the membership of sub-committees. Dave undertook to contact existing members of sub-committees to establish whether the people concerned were willing to continue and to draw up a meeting programme for 2022-3.

Meeting closed at 8.55.

DP 30/6/22