



## Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held at West Midlands Bridge Club

**Thursday 1 September 2016**

**Present:** Darren Evetts (Chairman), Sandra Squires (Secretary and Membership Secretary), Leslie Reece (Treasurer & Shareholder), Elayne Meakin (Competitions Secretary), Adrian Knight (Match Secretary), Nick Woosnam, Derek Oddy (League Secretary), Judith Currie, Malcolm Oliver (Publicity), David Jones, Stephanie Galvin (Shareholder), Mike Meakin (Publicity), Carolyn Fisher.

### **1) Apologies**

Mike Thorley (Vice-Chairman), Myra Scott (Player Development and Youth Officer), John Pyner (Chief TD), Colin Lang (Shareholder), Jane Hall, Jon Downing.

### **2) Minutes of last meeting (14 July 2016)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2016 were taken as read and were agreed with the addition of Nick Woosnam to the attendees and in Item 12(a) 'there' was changed to 'that'.

### **3) Matters Arising**

- a) Succession planning – Nothing to report but Derek Oddy was congratulated for taking over the League secretary role smoothly.
- b) TD training – The feedback had been generally excellent and John and Maggie Pyner and David Jones were thanked for their work. David Jones questioned who the course had been aimed at as some of the material was extremely complex. Darren Evetts explained that it was aimed at club directors, but recognised that there was a wide range of experience among the participants and some of the course may not have been suitable for all. The courses had cost the county around £275 for the facilitators and materials, and West Midlands BC had provided accommodation. Participants had paid £10 for catering costs. Clubs had been consulted and it was agreed that this was something the county should facilitate.
- c) Sponsorship - no new sponsors had been found. Darren Evetts is to draft a letter to be sent to potential sponsors. He asked the committee to see if they could find appropriate firms.
- d) Bridge+More – No further news

### **4) Treasurer's Report (Leslie Reece)**

Leslie Reece reported that the county was on a sound financial footing with no major concerns. It was noted that UM income in the first six months was down, as the player sessions were lower across all of the Clubs in the County except, for Northfield BC.

### **5) Competition Secretary's Report (Elayne Meakin)**

- a) The rules for the Warwickshire County Premier League were taken as read. They were approved unanimously.
- b) All the competitions are agreed but there are only a small number before Christmas - one Seniors competition and the Men's and Ladies pairs.
- c) WPL will have three divisions in September 2016. Three pairs have been lost, but 6/7 new pairs have entered.
- d) Clubs are slow requesting to run heats of the Pairs and Mixed pairs competition. So far only three Clubs have requested permission to run heats. The deadline is 30 September.

### **6) Player Development/Youth Report (Myra Scott)**

The rules for the Non-Expert Teams were taken as read. They were approved unanimously.

## **7) Match Secretary's Report (Adrian Knight)**

The inter-county league starts next month with an away match against Derbyshire. The Tollemache selection is in progress, but the Tollemache team building weekend will not take place.

## **8) Constitution update**

A revised constitution had been circulated which is to be discussed in detail at the next meeting. Darren Evetts asked if there were any comments. Derek Oddy asked if all post holders should be listed in 3.1. It was agreed that this was not necessary, as those listed were the compulsory members and the others were discretionary. Derek also asked if in 3.7.2 the authorised officers should be specifically named. After discussion it was agreed to ask Colin Lang to review this clause, particularly with a view to using internet banking to make payments.

## **9) League Secretary's Report (Derek Oddy)**

- a) All entries are in. Three teams have been lost, but four new teams have joined (3 from Priory and 1 from Arden). There will be 3 divisions of 8, with division 4 having 7 teams. There are 17 teams in the handicap knockout, with the draw taking place shortly.
- b) The composition of the teams where one or more members did not have Warwickshire as their primary county was discussed. It was agreed that no changes to the rules in regard to team makeup could take place this year, and any rules to curtail entry to the league was not received favourably. However, the rules could be looked at for next year, if there was sufficient support for a review. See 14a for Dual Membership.

**10) Midland Counties Congress** - Brochures are available. The committee were asked to encourage entries, especially to Friday, as it forms an enjoyable one day event with dinner.

**11) National Swiss Teams** - Brochures are available.

## **12) Regional County Working Group (Darren Evetts)**

Darren Evetts presented a report detailing recent developments in the membership of the committee. The report was discussed and the Committee were in full support of the position taken by Mike Thorley and Darren Evetts, and it was noted that a further meeting will take place shortly.

## **13) Secretarial**

- a) **Correspondence** – Darren had received a letter from a member regarding the work undertaken by an individual at a Warwickshire Club. He had replied that at the moment there were no awards for services at Club level, but he would raise it for further discussion within the EBU.
- b) **Website Usage** – There have been a total of 562415 hits to date, an increase of 4790 since the last meeting.

## **14) AOB**

- a) Darren Evetts presented a paper on the terms and conditions of Dual and Direct Membership. After discussion it was agreed unanimously to remove the fee for Dual membership, but to retain a fee of £5 for direct membership. It was agreed that a schedule of dual members and their contact details would be maintained, and once granted Dual Membership will remain in place on a rolling basis. The Secretary, League and Competitions Secretaries and Player Development Officer are empowered to grant Dual Membership. Details to be passed to DE or SS, who will maintain a register, to which the aforementioned Officers will have read only access.

**15) Next meeting – Executive Thursday 17 November 2016 at 7pm @ WMBC.** Coffee available on arrival.