**NORTHERN BRIDGE LEAGUE REVIEW MEETING 2017**

**Held at Bradford B.C. on 26th October 2017 at 11a.m.**

**1 Present**

B Kaye (Chairman/Merseyside), T Ward (Cumbria), A Barnes, B Brelsford, J Smith (Lancashire)

I Davies, R Lighton (Manchester), M Rothwell (Westmorland), S Davies, G Jepson, J Staniforth, J Latham (Yorkshire)

**2 Apologies for Absence**

J Hampson (Merseyside), M Newman, A Mould (Manchester), J Hayton (Yorkshire)

**3 Minutes of Last Meeting (20 Oct 2016)**

Taken as read.

**4 Matters arising from 2017 and NBL League Report**

Mr Jepson had contacted Nigel Durie but there was no North East team entry to the A Division.

 The season had gone very well with the Division winners respectively Manchester 1, Cumbria and Yorkshire SE. It was particularly pleasing that Cumbria had won Division 2 for the first time. There was particular comment on the excellent food at Bolton (who had undercharged us!) and Manchester. A children’s party at the final Manchester match necessitated an upstairs play area with a disabled player stationary at a solitary table downstairs. However, Mr Lighton reported that Manchester BC was closing down its current premises and was unavailable for next seasons NBL matches.

**5 Manchester Matters**

 The Chairman reported an Email request from Manchester before the final A match for teams from the same County to play each other first to avoid potential collusion and that future NBL matches be arranged similarly. It was felt the current random draw worked fine, it would raise issues for further prearranged TD placement and the suggestion was contrary to the NBL spirit. The proposal was rejected 6-2.

 He also reported a complaint on an NBL A match clashing with the Premier League Dates. The NBL view was that as the PL dates were not know when setting dates at the Review Meeting and as this affected Manchester and only 5 players, the complaint had little merit. Proposed NBL dates would be circulated each year to the NBL representatives a few weeks before the Review meeting. It was far more important to avoid clashes with the Presidents Cup and other local/national events.

 He then raised the issue that many Manchester players in the last few years were playing in two or even three Divisions and for the two A teams in the same Division. The original pools were A Tolle, B County and C Club, although Counties had always been given some latitude to move players in extraneous circumstance. Mr Lighton explained that the regular transfer of players between A2 and A1 was due to the number of A1 player commitments. Mr Jepson pointed out that if the two A teams were of equal strength, there would be no such problem. The consensus view expressed by Mr Barnes was that though we had no wish to tighten regulations on this matter, players switching between teams in the same Division could be tolerated if unavoidable, but that Counties should make every effort to keep the players within the same Division during a full season. The Chairman also reminded everyone that players did not need primary allegiance with the County they represented.

**6 Treasurers Report**

 Stuart Davies presented the Accounts for 2017 which showed a small loss leaving us with a balance of around £600. The Review meeting cost would be corrected from £60 to £80. Stuart had also prepared a budget plan for the 2018 season and there was no reason to increase costs with the current balance.

 County Fee £60 per team. Money to be sent to Stuart by April 1st 2018

 Table Money £12:50 per player (£10:00 for Juniors)

 Catering/Venue £10 per head to include food and club fee.

 TD Fee £85

 TD Travel 35p per mile

 Duplimate £45 per match per pool (4 copies including Hand Records)

 WebMaster £100

 Match Coordinator £150 (SD)

 NBL Organiser £100 (BK)

**7 Proposed NBL League/Venues 2018**

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| **TEAMS OF 8 FOR 2018** |
|  | **A** | **B** | **C** |
| 1 | Lancashire  | Cumbria | Cumbria |
| 2 | Manchester 1 | Lancashire | Lancashire |
| 3 | Manchester 2 | Manchester | Merseyside/Cheshire |
| 4 | Merseyside/Cheshire | Merseyside/Cheshire | Manchester 1 |
| 5 | Yorkshire 1 | North East | Manchester 2 |
| 6 | Yorkshire 2 | North Wales | Westmorland |
| 7 |  | Westmorland | Yorkshire NW |
| 8 |  | Yorkshire  | Yorkshire SE |

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| **DATES/VENUES 2018** |
| **Div** | **Sat Jul 14 2018** | **Sat Aug 11 2018** | **Sat Sep 22 2018** | **Sat Oct 6 2018** |
| **A** | Sheffield | Brierfield | Bradford | Bolton |
| **B** | Bradford | Leeds | Keighley | Bradford |
| **C** | Keighley | Bradford | Brierfield | Leeds |

There was a clash with the Derbyshire GP event on Sep 22 but this was the best September date possible. Bernard would negotiate arrangements and attempt to minimise TD travel. We were delighted that Manchester was entering another C team. On enquiry, Mrs Davies said the intention was a C1 team of regular Club players and a C2 team with newcomers and less experienced players.

**8 Any Other Business**

(a) Mr Hampson had written an Email explaining that anywhere too distant e.g. Darlington would seriously affect the viability for Merseyside to select teams. It was agreed to stick with core venues.

(b) Mr Hampson also noted the late arrivals at matches and suggested penalising the Counties. Mr Rothwell said the Regulations/TD Directive (actioned for production last year) should be on the website to cover such situations. It was agreed the two documents be passed to the Webmaster for publication.

(c) The Chairman proposed the NBL be renamed NCBL to avoid the clash with National Basketball League. The general view was contrary since people were used to NBL and the new name may also clash.

(d) It was also proposed we use a dedicated website domain for the NBL. The view was a new domain would be an unnecessary expenditure and the NBL link was already easily accessible for users.

(e) On enquiry about a Cumbria/Westmorland A team, County representatives thought that unlikely.

(f) Mr Jepson proposed prizes say £10 for the top pair on Ximps in each Division. Mrs Latham felt this sent the wrong signal and some people still objected to the publication of Ximps on the website feeling they should be private only for the Selectors use.

(g) Mr Rothwell had reported on improving the Traveller display on smartphones etc Also Hand Records in Pdf form showing the Double Dummy table could usefully be added onto the website.

(h) Adrian Goulding to be added to TD list as alternative (Davies, Turner, Dixon, Johnston) and it was noted that Neil Morley was now in the Staffordshire area.

(i) Mr Jepson suggested we run 4 board stanzas in A Division with each NS playing each EW in the day.

**9 Date of Next Meeting**

 Thanks were given to Bradford BC for hosting the meeting and for an excellent lunch.

 There had been a suggestion to move the Review meeting to a Friday or other weekday but with several key people unavailable on other days, such a change would not be possible.

 11am on Thursday 18th October 2018 (again) at Bradford BC.