NORTHERN BRIDGE LEAGUE REVIEW MEETING 2019

**Held at Bolton B.C. on 17th October 2019 at 11a.m.**

**1 Present**

B Kaye (Chairman/Merseyside)

L Lehninger (Cumbria)

J Smith, B Brelsford, A Petrie (Lancashire)

I Davies, R Lighton, P Murray, M Newman (Manchester)

J Hampson (Merseyside)

S Davies (Yorkshire)

**2 Apologies for Absence**

T Ward (Cumbria), M Rothwell (Westmorland), G Jepson (Yorkshire), R Sheard ( N Wales)

**3 Minutes of Last Meeting (18 Oct 2018)**

Approved.

**4 Matters arising**

 The issue on Ranking GPs only awarded for the final positions had been confirmed by the EBU. The
 mileage chart had been updated.

**5 NBL Chairmans Report**

The Chairman thanked Stuart, Jeff & Rodney for continued support. He expressed condolences to Rhona Goldenfield on the loss of Bernard. He mentioned that Graham Jepson had retired from NBL involvement.

He also wished Rob Turner well during his recent illness. Manchester won Divisions A and C, Yorkshire won the B Division. He welcomed Lincolnshire back to the NBL now in Division A, noting they had won the second match. Preston was a new venue albeit there had been some admin problems with catering which had been quickly resolved on the day. He thanked clubs for the many volunteer workers.

**6 NBL Issues**

 Andrew Petrie raised the issues of catering and travel in the NBL. There had been an administrative issue with the use of Preston BC in NBL competitions. The Preston kitchen was not really equipped to cater for 64 people, nor did they have facility or volunteers to host unless people bring their own food. There is also the demand for better quality, the search for willing volunteers to effectively subsidize the players while sticking to the £11 charge. Also possible regionalisation of teams due to the onerous long distance travel which could prove a barrier to many older players.

 Bernard read an email from Mike Rothwell saying the format was good and he would be unhappy changing the status quo. However he also read other Emails criticising both the quality and timing of the refreshments. In particular, the food had been reported as very good or very bad by different players at the same venue making it unclear whether there was a problem and there was a suggestion it be standardised to sandwich platters. Irene felt maybe the current setup better suited the social aspect for B,C rather than A division. Michael Newman said he particularly enjoyed the Bradford refreshments especially with the sweet trolley. There was also a view that the food be served at the start and also issues with vegan, gluten free etc options.

 After long discussion, the general feeling was that we continue with the same format at all venues, that the clubs be informed there must be a vegan and vegetarian option available and that it would be helpful if the Counties informed the NBL organizer if any players had a particular dietary requirement. We should put out some feedback formats next year at the matches to try and best understand the views and preferences of the players.

**7 Treasurers Report**

 Stuart Davies presented the Accounts for 2019 which showed a loss of £6:38 leaving about £618 in the account.The deadline of end November 2019 was set for the Preston match £28 refund – note that Merseyside, Cumbria & Lancashire counties had not yet claimed. The following fees were agreed.

 County Fee £75 per team. Money to be sent to Stuart by April 1st 2020

 Table Money £13 per player (increase from £12:50 last year). (£10 for Juniors [under 26])

 Catering/Venue £11 per head to include food and club fee.

 TD Fee £85

 TD Travel 40p per mile

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

 WebMaster £100 (RL)

 NBL Admin £250 (SD/JS)

 NBL Coordinator £100 (BK)

 Match Reporter £25 per match (See AOB-[e])

 It was noted that Bolton BC had undercharged at £8 catering. The consensus view was that we should pay the standard £11 catering fee to them albeit we could not insist on that!

**8 Proposed NBL League/Venues 2020**

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| **TEAMS OF 8 FOR 2020** |
|  | **A** | **B** | **C** |
| 1 | Lancashire  | Cumbria | Cumbria |
| 2 | Lincolnshire | Lancashire | Lancashire |
| 3 | Manchester 1 | Manchester | Merseyside/Cheshire |
| 4 | Manchester 2 | Merseyside/Cheshire | Manchester 1 |
| 5 | Merseyside/Cheshire | North East | Manchester 2 |
| 6 | Yorkshire 1 | North Wales | Westmorland |
| 7 | Yorkshire 2 | Westmorland | Yorkshire NW |
| 8 |  | Yorkshire  | Yorkshire SE |

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| **Div** | **A** | **B** | **C** |
| **Sat 11 July 2020** | Manchester | Bradford | Keighley\* |
| **Sat 22 Aug 2020** | Brierfield | Altrincham | Bradford |
| **Sat 19 Sep 2020** | Bradford | Keighley\* | Manchester |
| **Sat 17 Oct 2020** | Bolton | Bradford | Altrincham |

\*Assuming the venue was available.

Sheffield BC and Preston BC were no longer available due to catering issues.

**9 Any Other Business**

1. Matches will start at 12:00 (instead of 12:30) with tea/biscuits at 11:30. (Will be reviewed next year)
2. A TD had arrived late at 12:10 at Bradford which was not good practice.
3. The replacement of Graham Jepson by Mike Rothwell on the Conduct committee was agreed.
4. John Hampson raised the issue of tables often in close proximity and the suspicion of comments overheard at the table and that players should be honest in this regard.
5. An NBL Match reporter would be appointed to write up a few interesting hands on the NBL site. Michael Newman would initially manage this role. A fee of £25 per match was agreed..

D**ate of Next Meeting**

11am on Thursday 22nd October 2020 at Bradford BC.