NORTHERN BRIDGE LEAGUE REVIEW MEETING 2021

**Held online on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 10:30pm**

**1 Present**

B Kaye (Chairman/Merseyside)

L Lehinger , S Norman, K Johnson (Cumbria)

J Smith, B Brelsford, M Tomlinson (Lancashire)

M Wardell (Lincolnshire)

I Davies, R Lighton, A Wiseberg (Manchester)

J Hampson (Merseyside)

M Rothwell, J Ellwood (Westmorland)

S Davies (Yorkshire)

**2 Apologies for Absence**

N Durie, J Latham, J Stanforth, N Woolven, J Staniford

**3 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising (22 April 2021, 17 Oct 2019)**

Minor correction for M Rothwell as representing Westmorland. Otherwise approved as a true record.

**4 Matters Arising**

The Match Reporter role had not been undertaken in the recent NBL.

**5 NBL Chairman’s Report (Bernard Kaye)**

The Chairman expressed condolences on the loss of Michael Newman and Rob Turner who had provided excellent NBL service in the past. He also thanked Jeff Smith, Adam Wiseberg & Ken Johnson for a magnificent job with the movement onto RealBridge. The Division winners were A Lancashire, B Manchester and C Merseyside/Cheshire. The Inter County Final would go ahead but was still in planning stage.

Bob Pitts had raised an issue of full system disclosure on RealBridge. There was a facility for a Convention Card depository held by the EBU. The general view was that this was more relevant for complex systems and a few lines chat entry usually sufficed.

The Chairman reminded all of the original NBL intention of A (Tolle), B (County) C (Club) based pools of players.

The main decision before us was F2F or Online, BBO or RealBridge, and if online, continue with Adam & Ken. Stuart noted that Bradford could not do food if it was at the Club and suggested it would be bring your own meal. The general view was that even though the social interaction was less, we should do as last year for travel, manageability and pragmatic reasons.

Adam raised several matters: now it was run online, we should maybe restrict entry to say primary affiliation, whether to invite outlying Counties to make up numbers, start/finish times and screens. Jeff explained that the regulation had always been to allow players roughly “associated” with a County to represent them unlike the more strictly defined EBU regulations for competitions. There was also an element of continuing/renewing partnerships. However, it was felt that at least one partner should have Primary Allegiance. Generally invitations to outlying Counties could lose the characteristic of a ‘Northern’ league. It was decided we stick to the current times and no screens since it would detract from the sociability aspect.

**6 Treasurers Report (Stuart Davies)**

Expected 23 but ended with 19 teams. Cost £20 per team and £3:50 per head. This resulted in a loss of £220 but we still have £232 assets in bank. Lincolnshire had paid for two teams but only fielded one team. If we increased to £4 per head, we should break even and £5 per head would lead to £750 profit. The proposal was that the team cost remain at £20 and that the table fee would be from £4 to £5 per head. Barry Brelsford pointed out this loss situation had previously been handled by a higher team charge but Stuarts proposal was accepted.

**7 Proposed Online NBL League/Dates 2022**

Sat 9th July 2022

Sat 20st August 2022

Sat 17th September 2022

Sat 8th October 2022

John Hampson felt it was helpful to stick close to the same days each year to obviate discussions of past years where minor clashes had been argued over at length! The exact composition of Teams is to be finalised but will be based closely on the expected teams in 2021.

**8 Any Other Business**

1. The Match Reporter role was not particularly favoured and would be abandoned.
2. Kibbitzing could be continued though it seemed the A Divisions had the most usage in this regard.

The meeting ended at 12:00pm. The Chairman thanked Adam Wiseberg for organising the meeting on a Zoom account.

Next Meeting: **Thursday 13 October 20th 2022 at 10:30am**