NORTHERN BRIDGE LEAGUE REVIEW MEETING 2023

**Held online on Wednesday 19th October 2023 at 10pm**

**1 Present**

B Kaye (Chairman)

K Johnston, C Ward (Cumbria)

J Smith (Lancashire)

R Mitchell (Lincolnshire)

I Davies, R Lighton (Manchester)

J Hampson (Merseyside)

M Curran (North East)

M Rothwell, J Ellwood (Westmorland)

A Brosgill, J Staniforth (Yorkshire)

**2 Apologies for Absence**

A Perkins, M Tomlinson, S Norman, S Davies

**3 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising (13 October 2022)**

Approved. No matters arising.

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

The Chairman had moved to London and was now an Essex member. He wished to stand down but was enthusiastic that the NBL of which he had been a founder member continued. He thanked Ken Johnston for administering Match 4 after the EBU had banned Adam Wiseberg from running the event. National Finals will be held on Sunday 15th June 2024 on RealBridge with Yorkshire A and B and Manchester in the C Finals. In the C Division, Manchester & Yorkshire had tied first so using general White Book principles, results from the 4 matches between them was used to split the tie for National Final entry.

**5 Treasurers Report (c/o Bernard Kaye)**

 Adam had transferred funds to an Escrow account opened by Bernard as an emergency arrangement. After settling TD fees, EBU MPs costs, RealBridge charges, there was £1176.48 in the bank. After discussion on opening an NBL organisation account, bearing in mind money laundering and vetting issues, it was agreed that it would be best if a County simply ran this as a separate account. Christine/Ken offered to approach the treasurer for Cumbria to take on this role.

**6 Proposal for Amendment to NBL Regulations (by Lancashire)**

*The NBL Coordinator or the nominated representative of any county participating in the NBL, may at any time propose a course of action and request a discussion on it. The Coordinator, or his nominee, will decide whether the discussion should be via email or video meet and will facilitate that discussion. Following the discussion, the county putting forward the resolution or the NBL Coordinator may request a formal vote/poll. In any vote/poll - EITHER*

*a)      Each county participating in the NBL gets one vote; OR*

*b)      Each county participating in the NBL gets one vote for each team entered in the latest league.*

This was approved with option (a) unanimously preferred.

**6 Match Platform**The general discussion was that F2F was impractical on distance and that BBO was impracticable so we should continue using RealBridge. Both Ken & Bernard stated this was now easy to use and run for Team of 8 competition. Irene reported that Manchester had difficulty in getting out players and would likely cut down their number of teams. Although, there were people who wouldn’t do F2F or wouldn’t do online, there was some view that we should plan for a F2F league maybe in the future. Although normal practice was to invite tenders for Organiser and both Oliver Cowan and Sarah Amos were mentioned, the view was that as he was willing and had done an excellent job, Ken Johnston would plan and run the matches.

**7 Election of Officers**

 Bernard had already indicated he would like to stand down. As Ken Johnston and Jeff Smith could manage most of the arrangements, it was felt that we should plan for any formal replacement after another year with Bernard gradually reducing any duties.

**8 Agreed NBL League/Dates 2024**

 **Sat 13th July 2024**

 **Sat 17th August 2024**

 **Sat 14th September 2024**

 **Sat 12th October 2024**

**9 Any Other Business**

The NBL Regulation 3 states that all players must be members of the EBU. It was agreed this be widened to any member of the United Kingdom with MP, NGS awards as appropriate.

In addition, the NBL Regulations should be updated to allow for online matches.

Also the MP Handbook 6.5 indicates that GPs are only awarded for 6+board matches in InterCounty teams leagues. It was hoped the EBU might review this. It was also preferable that teams do play the same number of boards against each other in matches.

There was a further discussion and disappointment expressed that Manchester would likely drop out from Division 1. We would try to ensure at least 6 teams in Div 1 and try to balance the other Divisions accordingly.

The meeting ended at 11:20am.

Next Meeting: **Thursday 17th October 2024 at 10am**