NORTHERN BRIDGE LEAGUE REVIEW MEETING 2024

**Held online on Thursday 24th October 2024 at 10am**

**1 Present**

J Smith (Chairman)

K Johnston (Treasurer)

B Kaye (Merseyside)

S Norman (Cumbria)

R Mitchell (Lincolnshire)

R Alexander, R Lighton (Manchester)

J Hampson (Merseyside)

M Curran (North East)

M Rothwell, J Ellwood (Westmorland)

R Jepson, A Brosgill, J Staniforth (Yorkshire)

A Perkins (Scotland)

**2 Apologies for Absence**

J Armstrong, N Durie

**3 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising (19 October 2023)**

Approved. The EBU have changed the Masterpoint Handbook to allow GP awards in all the NBL leagues.

**4 NBL Chairman’s Report (Jeffrey Smith)**

NBL provides enjoyable, competitive, county matches for a broad spectrum of players. As an online competition, it does not require long journeys. Well done to Yorkshire who won all the Divisions this year. National Finals will be held on Sunday 8th June 2025 on RealBridge. There had been few issues with the main problem around the imbalance of teams (4,8,6 respectively) in the three Divisions. We can discuss whether any action be taken on this. Thanks to Ken Johnson who managed and ran all the matches, and Rodney Lighton who maintains the central NBL site. Well done Ken on making a small profit on the balance sheet! Finally, congratulations to our committee member Irene Davies on her well deserved forthcoming Dimmie Fleming award.

**5 Treasurers Report (Ken Johnson)**

 Bernard handed over £1176.48 from last year. There were 18 teams (with one Yorkshire free entry for making up the league). Entry costs were £4 per player, £20 per team. Entry Fees: £2516. Expenses: TDs £850, EBU £648.76, RealBridge £483.84, Nat Final £300 (subject to potential free entry). This left us with a profit of £197.40 and Final Balance of £1373.88 in the bank. Full Balance Sheet is on an Excel spread sheet.

**6 Matters For Discussion**

 **Next Years Entry Fees**

 Likely to remain as £4 per player, £20 per team dependant on entries.

 **Playing Break Time Issue**

 This was due to the A Division 4 Teams needing a longer pre lunch session. General feeling of meeting was that most people were happy with the timings

 **System Cards**

 It was agreed that a brief summary in the chat be compulsory. It is also helpful to provide an EBU link to the full System Card.

**Screens**

 They were used in A Division. The view was they work well and keep the friendliness of the event. It’s easy to talk to your screen-mate quite freely without risk of unauthorised information for partner. It was agreed to trial this for all the Divisions next year.

 **Eating/Lunch in play**

 As a distraction and matter of courtesy, this should not be tolerated.

 **Single NBL Site**

 The general view was to continue as now with results on the Cumbria website and collation of League on the NBL website.

**7 NBL League/Dates**

 **Sat 12th July 2025**

 **Sat 16th August 2025**

 **Sat 13th September 2025**

 **Sat 11th October 2025**

**8 Any Other Business**

Bernard Kaye asked why people had problems with RealBridge. Both Rodney Mitchell and Royce Alexander explained that Internet access was a problem for RealBridge in certain areas.

The shortage of A Division teams was discussed at length. Rodney Mitchell explained the difficulty in getting a sensibly strong Lincolnshire team out and this was also reflected by Ann Perkins on the Scottish team. In essence it was impractical to force a County’s best team into the top Division.

Royce Alexander said he would try hard to get another Manchester team in the A Division next year.

Marion Curran mentioned the long delay for some players on the 3 board switch. Ken explained this was due to RealBridge handling of the event.

The meeting ended at 11:00am.

Next Meeting: **Thursday 16th October 2025 at 10am**