



**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MIDLANDS COUNTIES WORKING GROUP
AT West Midlands Bridge Club
ON Thursday 15th September 2016 @ 10.30am**

PRESENT:

Derbyshire	Arnold Chandler (AC)	Nottinghamshire	Graham Brindley(GB)
Derbyshire	Jim Parker (JP)	Oxfordshire	Robert Procter (RP)
EBU Board (Warks)	Darren Evetts (DE)	Staffs & Shrops	Linda Curtis (LC)
Gloucestershire	Jim Simons (JS)	Warwickshire	Mike Thorley (MT)
Leicestershire	Dean Benton (DB)	Warwickshire	Jude Currie (JC)
Northampton	Jim Bainbridge(JB)	Worcestershire	Mike Willoughby (MW)
Nottinghamshire	Clare Batten (CB)	Minutes (Warks)	Edward Legg (EL)

Chair: Clare Batten

1. Apologies – None

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 19 May 2015

- Item 4 could not be agreed, but the remainder of the minutes were agreed. It was recognised that the Nicky Bainbridge matter was between Nicky and the EBU Board and, therefore, any further discussion on the matter was not beneficial to this group and no further time would be given to it.

3. Chairmanship/NCWG Representative

- Clare Batten agreed to continue as chair, agreed by all.
- Jim Parker was elected as the second representative on the National County Working Group (NCWG).

4. Future of the Regional/National County Working Groups

There was discussion about the future of the County Working Group structure and a proposal circulated by Robert Procter. It was agreed that any focus for structural changes should start with the EBU as a whole and RP, MW and CB agreed to work on a discussion paper focusing on the medium to long term structural development of the EBU. **Action CB, RP, MW**

5. Awards (Club/County)

DE asked if regional groups would consider suggestions for awards that could be made at Club level apart from life membership. Any criteria suggested would have to be applied nationally and revolve round sharing best practice. **Action All**

6. Midlands Improvers Event

It was agreed that the event was well received and we should proceed with another. It was noted that Derbyshire included a local trophy which was awarded to the Derbyshire heat winners. It was felt than an earlier date in the season may prove more popular, therefore Sunday October 15th 2017 will be the next Midland Improvers Pairs. The event is aimed at both affiliated and unaffiliated Clubs. In additions to West Midlands and Spondon, a third venue is desired. RP and LC will investigate Oxford and Staffs & Shrops venues. **Action RP/LC**

7. Blue Point Events

Numbers are declining for green point events. Blue point events are designed for the more social player. There was some discussion regarding the rules for these events which must be are open events.

8. County Matches

- **Start Time** - Paul Hammond (Worcs & League Co-ordinator) is investigating this and will report back after consulting with the Counties. 2pm seems to be the favoured start time. Any change would be implemented in September 2017.
- **Scoring** – DE asked if Counties who score using Bridgemates could send him their movement file, so one can be chosen and shared with all Counties.

9. Membership Database

A number of questions had been asked about adapting the information supplied to Counties by Aylesbury and also the management of Dual Membership. With the new membership management it will be possible do develop the information available to Counties subject to 1) resolving any Data Protection issues, and 2) Counties collaborating to identify what is required so that the NCWG can request a single unified adaptation that will meet the needs of all Counties. **Action All**

10. AOB

- **NGS** – It was agreed to ask that consideration be given to providing a facility for Clubs and Counties to exempt two sessions per year as a Pro/Am type event where the event is aimed at experienced players partnering newcomers.

11. Date of Next Meeting Thursday 12 January 2017, at West Midlands Bridge Club.