**KENT CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

**COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at the Hilton Hotel, Maidstone, at 10 a.m. on Sunday 3rd January 2016.

**Present**

Keith Ashcroft (Acting Chairman)

David Anning (Treasurer)

Sharon Bayne

Brian Crack

Colin Crouch

Paul Gibbons

Phil Jones

Mike Rafferty

Diane Rogers

Jeremy Willans

Malcolm Lewis (Secretary)

**ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Geoff Smith

**ITEM 2 –MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Acting Chairman.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING**

ML reported that GS had been presented with a Dimmie Fleming Award at the EBU AGM.

Item 3 – BC was informed nothing more had been heard from Farnborough BC about a one-day TD refresher course.

Item 4e – PJ asked how a decision was made to select a pair for the Sussex Chairman’s Cup and was informed that it was normally the winners of the Larsky but that, as they were unavailable, JW and ML had agreed that John Amor and Mike Hampton who had won the Phillimore Cup in 2014 and been very successful in Torquay were suitable replacements.

Item 6 – BC asked about the booking of Maidstone Leisure Centre and was told it was booked.

Item 9 – with regard to club scoring, BC informed the meeting that the EBU requirement was now 70%, not 75%, of the boards.

**ITEM 4 – REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**a. Chairman**

No report.

**b. Secretary**

BC forwarded figures showing that membership was at a record high of 2678.

ML confirmed that a course of TD lessons had been arranged for West Faversham Community Centre starting on Tuesday 23rd February, this venue being much cheaper than the Hilton Hotel. He also noted that TWBC had arranged another course for later in the year. Details of both are on the website.

**c. Treasurer**

DA produced current figures noting that the Congress had lost £60.

JW asked why the Larsky lost money. DA explained that the prize money was much greater than other competitions as it went towards the entry for the Corwen.

On other expenses, DA noted that the equipment charge was a one-off and that income from P2P was steady. ITEM 5 was dealt with by all agreeing that the County P2P charge would remain the same.

ML pointed out that the National Pairs no longer had club heats and that he was trying to get engraving on trophies back-dated.

PJ asked whether the aim of KCBA was to break even on its tournaments or if a surplus was attempted to contribute towards other Kent initiatives. The break-even position was confirmed.

MR asked about the difference in the costs of Pairs and Teams GP events. BC felt this went back to days when scoring was done by hand. It was agreed that both events would charge £24 per head.

DA announced that it was his intention to retire at the AGM. He was roundly thanked for all his efforts over 20 years.

**d. Competition Secretary**

MR presented proposed dates for Kent events for 2016/17. These were agreed with the Kent Congress being set for 29th-30th October. He then introduced a written report noting that the numbers for the Dyer Smith were down due to its proximity to the Congress, but that the Hunter Homines/Fleming Femina numbers were at record levels with the Arnold Cup having two extra teams.

MR asked the Committee to look at proposed rules for the Corbett Cup events. After some discussion regarding eligibility of players and the need for honesty in clubs selections, MR and BC were asked to draw up a final draft.

**e. County Captain**

JW reported that Kent had 3 teams in the Metropolitan Cup with both B and C Teams winning their divisions. The future of next year’s event is in doubt but JW said he would be discussing it with Peter Hasensen of Middlesex.

In the Tollemache, our team had won its heat but that there would have to be changes to the team for the final.

**f. Archivist**

PJ stated that Gerald Soper (GS) is trying to collect details of all players and results of Kent’s involvement in the Tollemache.

Bill Kember was being researched by GS to produce another article on past Kent contributors. Information is being collected for a Kent history with all trophy winners being checked.

BC noted that Kent was regularly praised by EBU for its archive.

PG asked whether a date could be added to each archive stating when it was last updated to make it easier to just read new information. PJ agreed

Thanks were expressed to GS and to Alison Burt for all their efforts.

**g. Education Officer**

DR reported that a meeting of Kent teachers had been held in November last with 9 teachers present. This was chaired by Stephen Pierce and addressed by Simon Barb from EBED. SP had reported good feedback.

SP is also trying to get Youth Bridge into schools. He has been liaising with EBED and is developing a programme for the training of both teachers and students. Contact has been made with Surrey re. Mini-Bridge. Sussex has some lottery funding for youth bridge but find it difficult to allocate.

DR suggested that EBU might be persuaded to hold a Junior Bridge event similar to Loughborough’s in the South of England. She encouraged others to come up with ideas

BC hoped that these initiatives could be spread to all of Kent and suggested a meeting of interested prospective teachers.

**ITEM 5 –** See above

**ITEM 6 – CHIEF TD**

It was agreed that the remit of the Chief Tournament Director was twofold. He would organise TDs for all Kent events and advise on rulings. Where possible he would also be involved in actual direction. He would not be on the KCBA Committee but might attend meetings. MR would look into finding such a person.

**ITEM 7 – TOLLEMACHE FUNDING**

JW asked for clarification. The minutes of January 2011, Item 7, were referred to. The agreement therein would stand.

**ITEM 8 – YOUTH BRIDGE FUNDING**

DR asked if there was money available for teaching equipment such as pre-duplicated boards. BC proposed that KCBA should consider helping with funding where appropriate. This was agreed.

**ITEM 9 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Sunday 5th June 2016 at the Hilton Hotel was agreed.

**ITEM 10 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.37 p.m.

Malcolm Lewis (Secretary)