

## SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015 AT WOOLAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

- 1 A period of silence took place to remember the following deceased members:  
Ann Adams - Taunton  
Dorothy Beadling, John Garton, David Hancock, Dick Smith and Ray Thomas - Wilton  
Jo Buchanam, Richard Hills, Marjorie Lund – Minehead  
Brenda Lines – Castle Cary & Langport
- 2 Apologies for Absence  
John & Shirley Durrant, Steve Fletcher, Deb Lill, Mike Readman, Tony Russ, John and Betty Smithson, Michael Whittaker
- 3 2014 AGM Minutes  
The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved (proposed by David Porter, seconded by David Howard).
- 4 Matters Arising from the 2014 Minutes
  - a) The matter of running down County reserves was deferred until later – please see Chairperson’s Report: SCBA’s Financial Position.
  - b) Roger Sweet had requested the Committee to reconsider the changes made to the way in which the Victor Ludorum is decided. The Chairperson said that this had been done and the decision taken to continue the new system for another year, at which time it would be reviewed again. Roger Sweet stated that despite winning this year, his views had not changed.
- 5 Chairperson’s Annual Report: please see attached.
- 6 Treasurer’s Report: please see attached.  
This was tabled, but there being no questions, the Accounts were accepted by the meeting. This was proposed by Ken Bawdon and seconded by Caroline Macpherson.
- 7 The vote on the recommended subscription fee and County component pay to play fee for 2016/17 to remain at nil was carried. This was proposed by Joan Pooley and seconded by Roger Sweet.
- 8 Tournament Secretary’s Report: please see attached.
  - a) Caroline was asked to explain “Barometer Pairs”. All pairs play the same three boards each round and can immediately see their results and standings throughout the event.
  - b) It was confirmed that the Percentage Pairs is only open to members of affiliated clubs.
  - c) The non-expert events were generally welcomed and it is hoped that these will be well supported.

9 Election of Officers and other Committee Members

The current Officers and Members are all willing to continue and there being no other nominations, were proposed by Roger Sweet, seconded by David Porter, and duly elected by the meeting.

It was pointed out that there is room on the Committee for up to 3 more Members and nominations would be welcome.

10 Special Resolutions

There were none.

11 Any other business

- a) Joan Pooley requested that the microphone be used at all County events.
- b) David Porter stated that the Winter Gardens had also been confirmed for the 2016 Congress
- c) Andy Ridgers thanked Gina for her terrific work as Chairperson, duly welcomed by the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1-45 pm and was followed by the presentation of prizes.

A 16 table Swiss Teams event then took place, the winners being Wendy Miller, Sheila Coda, Daphne Greatorex and Les Borrett.

# Chairperson's Address at the 2015 AGM

## Welcome

Thank you for giving up your time to come to your county association's AGM. I extend a warm welcome to you all, and am pleased to see a number of new faces.

In this address I will be reviewing last year with particular reference to

- (a) The SCBA's financial position
- (b) County Representative Competitions, SCBA Competitions, and Changes to our Competition Events for 2015/16
- (c) The Work of the SCBA Committee
- (d) Your Committee in the coming year

## SCBA's Financial Position

### Reserves and New Financial Policy

At last year's AGM the membership voted to reduce the size of our reserves from £23k by approximately £5000 over the following two years. This was to happen by implementing the following measures:-

- (i) Holding a nil membership fee
- (ii) Not raising any funds through a county P2P component charge on our affiliated clubs
- (iii) Retaining a fixed charge of £10 for a one day event
- (iv) Continuing to run an education programme that is largely free for members, and
- (v) Maintain all of our equipment and assets in good working order.

This period is now half over, and as you will see from the balance sheet circulated at this meeting, reserves have fallen by £1883 this year. This is greater than we expected, for five main reasons. We took out insurance for county assets, a prudent thing to do, but with a cost of £379 per annum. We no longer have free storage for our excess tables not held at Woolavington. As from January 2015, we now pay for board duplication for all events. Board duplication is a time consuming task, and we have been lucky to get this largely free for many years. There was the normal increase in the cost of entries to National and Regional competitions due to increased EBU fees, and also we ceased to charge table money at Western League home matches. All of these factors will recur next year and in future years.

We have benefitted over a number of years from significant surpluses being generated from the West of England Congress. In fact, this event is by far our largest source of revenue. But the size of surplus we have generated from the Congress fell this year, and will continue to fall next year. Our Winter Gardens hire costs increased significantly in 2014/15, and will do so again in 2015/16. Also, there are indications that the numbers competing has begun to fall as age takes its toll on the tournament bridge playing population, so unless we make a big effort to reverse this trend, this factor will also cause revenues to fall.

In addition, the Winter Gardens is soon to come under new ownership, and although we are assured of the venue for 2015, we do not have the same certainty for following years. Venues of suitable size, at a suitable cost, and in a suitably accessible location are hard to come by.

Based on conservative assumptions, it is possible that we could be running a total deficit in the income and expenditure account of up to £6500 over the two years combined, ie £1500 larger than expected this time last year. To a large extent our cash reserves would then show a similar reduction. We are monitoring the situation carefully. We are also implementing many changes to our programme, aimed at increasing participation. If successful, this will reduce the deficit.

Despite the current and predicted deficit being larger than expected, we are recommending that the policy we implemented last year is unchanged for the next year. Later on you will be asked to vote to continue this reserve reduction financial policy for another year.

However, it is necessary for me to warn you that, should participation in county events stay at the same level, or fall, then next year we are likely to be recommending an increase in the cost of one day events together with other deficit reduction measures.

## **The County Representative Teams, County Events, and Changes to County Events in the coming season**

### **1. County Representative Teams**

Our three Western League teams, competing in divisions A B & C of the competition, finished 4<sup>th</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> = / and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively, not one of our best performances.

We also entered a team for the Tollemache qualifier held in December 2014, the blue riband event for counties. We finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 9 in our group, again one of our poorer results.

The County sent two pairs to the Corwen Trophy on the basis of their performance in the County Championship pairs, but were unable to field a team for the Pachabo Cup, as members of the two teams playing in the final of our County Knockout event were not available.

### **2. County Events**

Entries to County events in total, excluding the Michael Coda Simultaneous event, were up by 24 on last year, from 672 to 696, but down by 106 on two years ago, when the level of participation was at 804. It is nice to see the increase on last year, but participation in county events is still at a very low level compared to years gone by, and the trend is downwards. Somerset has 632 members with an EBU NGS ranking, but only 238 of them played in the county events in the 2014/15 season, and half of those only entered the odd event or two. This shows we have a large untapped reservoir of players, who might take part if the events were more attractive to them. As a consequence of these falling numbers, your committee has

attempted to reform the programme for next year, with the calendar more spread out, with some new events, and with some changes to the old events. One event, the inter-club teams and pairs, will not run next year. In recent years, participation in this event has dropped, so we are hoping that some of the new events will take its place and attract larger entries. The competition booklet will be available soon, and details will (as usual) be available on the website, so don't forget to get your entries in early.

### **3. The Use of Bridgemates and Results on the Website**

I just want to mention here the matter of bridgemates. These were introduced into county events in 2014/15, and are now in use across the board. They have, of course, been in use for much longer at some of our affiliated clubs. They are very easy to use, and have bedded in well, with most people able to use them without problems. Our directors are also now au fait with this new technology. They save an enormous amount of work, and events run more smoothly and quickly. They also create electronic files for interfacing with the EBU's own electronic P2P, and our own results website. These days, the results are often available on the website before you arrive home after playing in an event.

## **The Work of the SCBA Committee and Sub-Committees**

A team of unpaid volunteers undertake the annual work of our Association, and we have a lot of people to thank for everything the SCBA does.

### **1. Thanks for the County Committee Work in 2014/15**

In my first year as the Chairman, I have been fortunate to be supported by a hard working county committee, who freely give up a lot of their time to provide a comprehensive programme of events, and to ensure the affairs of the county are run efficiently. So on behalf of the Association's members, I would like to thank all of your Committee members for their work throughout 2014/15.

### **2. West of England Congress**

The revenue that is generated from a successful West of England Congress is vital for the finances of the SCBA, and benefits us all. The Congress continues to be one of the largest and most successful county run congresses in the country. It is a very large undertaking and once again last year we were full up on the final day with 85 tables in play in the Swiss Team's event. I would like to thank Ann Bawdon for her excellent administration, and the hundreds of hours she spent preparing the pre dealt boards. I would also like to thank David Porter for his chairmanship of the event, and all other SCBA members who support David and Ann during the Congress weekend itself.

### **3. County Events Programme**

Outside of the West of England Congress, we have a large programme of county sponsored events. Running such a programme takes a lot of organisation, administrative support and event management. I would like to thank all the Committee members involved with the county programme for a large amount of work behind the scenes. I would also like to thank all members outside of the Committee who are involved with directing and scoring, as well as those who assisted with transportation of tables, bidding boxes and pre dealt hands to and from the events.

We now store a number of tables at Woolavington, enough for county events, and we also now play all of our events at this venue. In addition, we store bidding boxes, table cloths and stationery at the venue. This has reduced the work needed in moving equipment around the county, and has also provided a central Somerset location. The average travel time from our affiliated clubs to Woolavington is just 36 minutes, and for most clubs it is much lower. There are just three clubs on the extremities of our area, Frome and Minehead and Yeovil, and unfortunately their members have a longer journey.

#### **4. The Selection Sub Committee**

The county selection sub-committee is re-elected every 3 years, and this process took place a couple of months ago. Tony Russ was the Chairman, and he was ably assisted by Colin Juneman, Sheila Coda, Stewart Upton and Tom Gibbard. Our thanks are due to them for all their work over the last 3 years. Tom Gibbard has decided to step down at this point, after serving for about 6 years, so, in the absence of any new nominations, the selection committee for the next 3 years will again consist of Tony Russ, Colin Juneman, Sheila Coda and Stewart Upton.

#### **5. The County Website**

The county has changed its website this season, to come in line with other county associations. For many years, Tony Manickam had provided an excellent service to keep the SCBA site up to date with news and results not only for the county itself, but also for the Western League and for some of our affiliated clubs. Thank you Tony for all of your work over the years.

This year however, we have changed, and are now using a bridgewebs website. Bridgewebs is specially designed for Bridge associations and clubs, as it automates a lot of the functionality, and allows authorised users to make updates. It means that the work of keeping you all informed can be shared. It also allows results to be automatically uploaded, which means that they are instantly available once the event is completed.

#### **6. Education Events**

Tony Russ has again run a programme of education events for players of all abilities, and we hope to have a similar programme next season. Two Bridge Café events were held, in Taunton and Wells, and both attracted over 50 participants. An education seminar in September was also well attended.

#### **7. The County's Nominated Charity**

I am delighted that 392 people played in our Michael Coda Simultaneous event in February, and that over £1,400 was raised for this year's county nominated charity, the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

I would like to thank Ken and Ann Bawdon for administering the Michael Coda Cup event, and Colin Juneman for preparing the commentary.

## **Changes to Your Committee**

This year, I am pleased to report that all nine members of last year's Committee are seeking nomination again. Our constitution allows for 6 officers and up to 6 additional members of the Committee, so there is room for others to become involved, and some new blood is always welcome. In fact, one or two of our more long standing members would be delighted to hand over to someone new, so please don't be shy about coming forward. There are only four meetings per year, so the time demands are not enormous. Later on at this meeting, I hope that you will vote us all back in for another year.

I now have a very pleasant duty to perform. Bob Warrender resigned last year, after being a member of the Committee for over 30 years, starting from the days when Somerset was a much larger association, as it incorporated what is now Avon Contract Bridge Association. He served in an officer position for over 25 years, mostly as our Tournament and Master Points Secretary. This was before the days of computerisation, so it was a much more onerous task than it is nowadays. Since his retirement, Bob has continued to run the County League and the Victor Ludorum competitions, so we have not lost him completely. In recognition of Bob's outstanding contribution, he was awarded a life membership of SCBA a few years ago. This year, he has been nominated by us, and chosen by the EBU for the prestigious Dimmie Fleming award for outstanding services to bridge. On behalf of the members I cannot thank Bob enough for the remarkably long service he has given to the County. I am pleased to present him with the Dimmie Fleming trophy, a certificate, and a badge.

I was elected as your new chairperson a year ago, and have thoroughly enjoyed my first year in office. I am standing for re-election, and hope to be given the support of the members a little later on.

Gina Howard

14 June 2015

## **Tournament Secretary's Report AGM June 2015**

A big thank-you for all your support and encouragement this year; the focus throughout the past year has been to encourage a greater number of members to participate in County Events - with some success as we have welcomed a few new faces. I hope this will be continued in the coming season with new events designed to bridge the gap between Club & County.

Changes for 2015/16 include:

### **Barometer Pairs**

A new competition to start off the season in July – see how you are doing as you play!

### **Non-Expert Events**

Pairs & Teams competitions aimed specifically at those not already playing regularly at County level. In addition, mini **No-Fear pairs' events** will take place alongside some of the major County competitions; these are aimed at those just starting out – a chance to meet & play against others of a similar level.

### **Percentage Pairs**

A change to reflect the Individual nature of the competition: members will choose a specific club to enter through at the start of the season and their best 10 results obtained at that club throughout the year (July –March) will provide a County-wide ranking list. The top 50% or so of the entries will then compete in an Individual Final.

### **Inter Club competitions**

With the inclusion of Non-Expert Events these will be put to one side for the coming year.

### **County League**

Support continues to be encouraging, with teams from two new clubs (Castle Cary and Cross) entering. With 27 teams in three divisions, we can accommodate up to three extra teams, so teams from new clubs or additional teams from Clubs already in the league will be very welcome.

**Do visit the County website regularly for further details and updates and if you are NOT currently receiving up-to-date news on competitions and educational events please let us have your email.**

<http://www.bridgewebs.com//somerset>

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**SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2015**

	<b>2015</b>		<b>2014</b>	
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>				
Trophies	1,384		1,384	
Tables	690		583	
Duplimate Machine and Boards	1,290		1,686	
Bridgemates and Computer Scoring Equipment	<u>1,726</u>	<b>5,090</b>	<u>2157</u>	<b>5,810</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Lloyds TSB - Treasurers' Account	1,813		3,703	
Lloyds TSB - Business Instant Access Account	2,141		2,090	
Scottish Widows 60 Day Treasury Account	16,755		16,705	
Cash in hand	2		6	
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	<u>2,151</u>	<b>22,862</b>	<u>1010</u>	<b>23,514</b>
		<b>27,952</b>		<b>29,324</b>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>				
Prize Fund	1,000		1,000	
Sundry Creditors	<u>1,974</u>	<b>2,974</b>	<u>1,463</u>	<b>2,463</b>
		<b>24,978</b>		<b>26,861</b>
		<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>26,861</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>				
Accumulated Funds				
General Fund as at 1st April 2014		26,861		26,877
Deficit for the year		<u>(1,883)</u>		<u>(16)</u>
		<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>26,861</b>

**NOTES:** These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention on an accruals basis. Income and expenditure is generally accounted for in the period to which it relates irrespective of whether actually received or paid within that period. Fixed Assets are depreciated by annual instalments over their estimated useful lives.

Examined and in accordance with the accounting records

**TREASURER'S REPORT 2014/2015**

The Association made a loss of £1,883 in the year, when we more or less broke even in the preceding year. Net Competition Income reduced by £741 due largely to increased expenditure under almost all headings.

There was an increase in the cost of Entries to National and Regional Competitions, due to increased EBU entry fees and the fact that no Table Money was charged at Western League home matches. The increase in the cost of Seminars is due entirely to the staging of a well-supported Club Directors' Course in the year. There was expenditure under the new headings of insurance, Table Storage and Board Duplication.

There was no major capital expenditure in the year; the combined cost of ten new tables and Bidding Box Cards was £517.

The 2014 West of England Congress produced net income of £3,716, £334 less than 2013. This was despite a major increase in the cost of Venue Hire. The surplus represents 85% of total income (excluding the Charity Event) for the year.

**SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

		<b>2,015</b>	<b>2,014</b>
		£	£
<b>INCOME</b>	Competition Income (net):		
	County Competitions	532	1,273
	West of England Congress	3,716	4,050
	Charitable Events including Donations	1,417	1,301
	Other		
	EBU Bridge For All payments	63	15
	Interest (net)	51	34
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>5,779</u></b>	<b><u>6,673</u></b>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>	Regional and National Competition Entries and Expenses	2,063	1,463
	SCBA Website and Handbook	420	514
	Insurance	317	
	Table Storage	240	
	Postage, Telephone and General Administration	186	150
	EBU Delegates Expenses	78	79
	AGM Subsidy	128	307
	Depreciation	1,237	1,959
	Donations to Charities	1,417	1,376
	Expenses re Charity Event	91	25
	Computer, Printer and duplicating machine costs	68	247
	Net cost of seminars	1,417	569
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>7,662</u></b>	<b><u>6,689</u></b>
	<b>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b><u>(1,883)</u></b>	<b><u>(16)</u></b>

**COMPETITION INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

<b>INCOME</b>	Entry Fees, Table and Tea Money	<b><u>9,464</u></b>	<b><u>9,545</u></b>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>	Venue Hire	2,037	1,769
	Teas and Refreshments	3,829	3,635
	Directors' and Scorers' Fees and Expenses	1,205	1,044
	Prizes, Honours and Engraving	1,062	1,104
	Licence fees/Pay to Play fees	484	481
	Board Duplication and Copying	178	
	Stationery and Other Costs	137	239
		<b><u>8,932</u></b>	<b><u>8,272</u></b>
	<b>NET INCOME FROM COUNTY COMPETITIONS</b>	<b><u>532</u></b>	<b><u>1,273</u></b>

<b>INCOME</b>	Entry Fees	<b><u>16,051</u></b>	<b><u>15,467</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	Venue Hire	2,500	1,680
	EBU Licence fees	2,549	2,432
	Prize Money	3,615	3,570
	Directors' fees and expenses	2,268	2,270
	Stationery/Printing/Copying	281	265
	Postage/Telephone	16	10
	Engraving	90	76
	Gratuities	91	98
	Cost of transporting tables and boards	268	422
	Additional duplicating of boards	133	108
	Hire of Bridgemates	139	171
	Refreshments for Directors and Helpers	285	215
	Honoraria	100	100
		<b><u>12,335</u></b>	<b><u>11,417</u></b>
	<b>Surplus</b>	<b><u>3,716</u></b>	<b><u>4,050</u></b>