

SCBA Committee Meeting held 3rd September 2017
Woolavington Village Hall 12.30pm

Present: Tony Russ, Sheila Coda, Jean Howard, Gina Howard, Ceri Pierce, Daphne Greatorex, Richard Feetenby, Joan Pooley and Eric Cummings

Apologies: Frank Coltman, Colin Simcox

Minutes of Previous Meeting and matters arising.

There were no matters arising and minutes were accepted as a true record

Chairman's Report

The Chairman praised the efforts of the Committee members in beginning to implement the programme set out at the previous meeting.

He welcomed Joan Pooley and Colin Simcox to the committee.

The major initiative is the Fast Forward to Bridge programme and to support this programme an application has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund for funding of £10,000. This application is supported by EBed and if successful will enable the planned programme to be implemented to a high standard.

The SCBA intends to maintain the programme of seminars and courses over the next season, hopefully to continue the policy of providing free seminars, break even events and profit making ventures to fund the free stuff.

The Treasurers report indicates a very sound financial position thanks mainly from the income from the West of England Congress and from what are becoming the annual Robson/Bruton events.

Ideas about how we may encourage social players into club bridge are to be examined

As identified in our five year plan, improved liaison with and involvement of clubs is a high priority and to this end an event for clubs (affiliated and non affiliated) and their members will be held on Thursday November 16th at Cossington. There will be a number of presentations around the themes of what makes a successful bridge club and the introduction of Fast Track. Also several bridge related companies will be in attendance.

Chairman's Strategy for 2017-18

Develop better liaison with and involvement of our clubs.

Consult with players at all levels to see how we can better support them.

Produce a strategy for the development of Fast Track to Bridge.

Produce a strategy to recruit more social players into club bridge.

Ensure succession planning by involving others in our work.

Gain sponsorship of some or all of our activities.

Support the selection committee in trying to achieve the best possible results in the Western League and Tollemache.

SCBA Fast Track Bridge (FTB)

Applications for a £10K lottery grant and a further £2k grant from EBED have been made, to be used to fund to 4 clubs to work within the SCBA. It is not expected to receive both grants

Ceri Pierce and Eric Cummings attended the FTB presentation by the EBU and suggested that we take on board the course. Each group should ideally be of 8 students with training over 26 hours.

The outline plan is to:

Establish 4/5 County trainers to review course and best delivery options

Identify 4 partner clubs (lottery funds depend) who wish to participate

County Trainers to offer continuing support to the clubs during and after completion of the course and assist with integration of students to the clubs

Timetable:

Lottery outcome should be known by December 2017 with County trainers up to speed by January 2018 delivering to the clubs by February/March 2018

Education Report

2 Directors courses have been scheduled to cover updates to the New Rule Book

The Andrew Robson seminar is well subscribed with over 100 entries. There will be a limit of 180 available places.

Another Next Step weekend is planned for April 13th 2018

The SCBA website calendar will be updated with dates of the above events

Action *Eric Cummings*

Treasurers Report

No statement was provided but the Treasurer advised there were significant cash holdings currently with strong Congress income and modest outgoings. The structure for a 5 year plan has been prepared including estimated surpluses for the current year and to 2021.

This will be modified as significant changes to events unfold. The county has good reserves to draw upon for its bridge development plans

Tournament Secretary's Report

Entries to first two events for the season were up, although entries for the Championship teams are low.

A directors fee policy has been drawn up based on EBU guidelines and directors have been allocated for all Events

It is hoped to create a database of club members email addresses so that they will all receive a monthly news letter from the Secretary

Membership Secretary's Report

Various ideas were tabled on how to attract social players into club bridge. Organised sessions of Chicago or rubber bridge were suggested but it was agreed that the impetus needed to come from the individual clubs. SCBA could offer support both financially and with some of the County tops players

Club Survey

All club secretaries were emailed with a simple survey asking for details of facilities available at each club venue. Of the 31 survey forms sent 18 replies were received. The results of the survey will be incorporated into the SCBA website

Action *Joan Pooley* to follow up remaining clubs who have not replied

Bridge in Somerset Initiative

An open meeting is to be held at Cossington Village Hall on November 16th 2017 to set out how the SCBA can best support all County clubs.

It is hoped that all clubs will send at least one representative.

There will be various presentations by Committee and clubs, together with various attendance and demonstrations from commercial bridge oriented suppliers

The meeting closed at 1.30pm

Next Committee meeting scheduled for January 7th January 2018 at 12.30pm