

Somerset Contract Bridge Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 5th June 2015 at 18:45

Present: Gina Howard (Chair), Joe Patrick (Secretary), Caroline Macpherson (Tournament Sec), Ken Bawdon (Treasurer), Tony Russ

Apologies: Michael Whittaker, Sheila Coda, Ann Bawdon, Eric Cummings

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as being a true record.

Matters Arising / Carried Forward

1. EC to produce an appropriate club questionnaire as a precursor for a 5 year plan **EC**
2. The First for bridge sponsorship would be discussed at the next meeting **MW**

Finance

It was reported that the deficit for 2014/15 was £1888 and that there is a possibility that reserves might have fallen by up to £6500 by the end of 2015/16. This is more than the £5000 reduction in reserves which was agreed at last year's AGM. Various ways of increasing revenue or reducing costs were discussed, but it was decided that no action would be taken at present, apart from to monitor the situation. The main thrust of the Committee's work will be in attempting to get more people entering County competitions, which if successful would increase revenues. There will be a report to the members on this topic at the AGM, in the Chairman's report.

Events for next year

The programme of events which was tabled by MW was agreed in principle. There are amendments as follows:-

- Barometer pairs will be introduced instead of the Mixed pairs on the 25th July
- The Mixed pairs will replace the Mens and Ladies pairs on the 6th September
- The Mens and Ladies pairs will replace the ranked pairs on the 12th December
- The Swiss pairs will be on the 10th January, one week later than last year
- The old % pairs would be replaced by a County % individual competition. Clubs will record the top 10 percentages of entrants, taken from July to March, with entry fee of £3 per member as usual. Entrants with the highest percentages county wide will go forward to a final.
- No fear events will be run alongside County events with no additional running costs. A volunteer director will run the No Fear event, which will be smaller and shorter than the main event, and carry a proportionally smaller entry fee. Participants can choose to have a tea if they wish, the same as in the main event.
- Three non-expert events will be added to the calendar for Friday evenings, possibly with short seminars beforehand. These would be run on a self-financing basis, and would only require the hiring of one of the smaller rooms at Woolavington.

- The Inter club competitions will be dropped for this year to allow time to encourage the lower ranked players to reach a point where they feel confident to join in for future events.

Selection Committee

The process for choosing a new Selection Sub-Committee has now been completed, with no new applications being received. As Tom Gibbard has resigned, the new Selection Sub-Committee now consists of Tony Russ (Chairman), Sheila Coda, Colin Juneman and Stuart Upton.

AGM Preparation

A proposal, with a seconder, has been received by the Secretary to nominate the current Committee members 'en-bloc'. The Secretary reported that no other nominations for committee have been submitted. Similarly, no 'Special Resolutions' have been received.

Chairperson's report

There was an EBU shareholder meeting recently which was not attended by a Somerset representative. Minutes are not yet available, but will be scrutinised once they are published by the EBU.

Bob Warrender has volunteered to continue to run the County league and the Victor Ludorum next year. The Committee accepted his offer, and extended thanks for his work in this area in 2014/15.

AOB

As the Michael Coda event was well attended it was suggested that SCBA consider running a second sim pairs event, to raise money for a Charity, and to increase participation in SCBA events. In view of all the other changes to our programme for next year, it was decided not to pursue this suggestion at present.

Date and time of next meeting

To be advised.