

SCBA Committee Meeting held 12th September 2018
Woolavington Village Hall 2.00pm

Present: Tony Russ, Ceri Pierce, Daphne Greatorex, Joan Pooley Frank Coltman, **Paul Burgess**. Gina Howard

Apologies: Jean Howard, Colin Simcox, Sheila Coda and Richard Feetenby

Minutes of Previous Meeting and matters arising.

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

Chairman's Report

Future meeting will not be held before County events due to the earlier start of the events, but will be held as and when necessary.

Committee notes and reports for meetings will be held in the member's only section of the SCBA website

The plans set out at the last Meeting:

Develop better liaison with all clubs was considered successful

Communication with players at all levels was achieved by survey and the news letter

Fast Forward to Bridge was on course

Involving others in County events was successful

Sponsorship was unsuccessful to date but ongoing enquiries

Support to the Selection Committee was given to assist in the Western League and Tollemache

A new plan was proposed to produce a strategy to recruit more members in EBU clubs

Fast Forward to Bridge Report

Course run by Caroline Macpherson was completed and was successful with 10 beginners. Follow up lessons are ongoing.

Street Bridge Club course is planned for the weekend of 14th September and currently have 8 people signed for the weekend with a further 6 to 9 interested in joining the weekly follow up lessons

Pawlett Bridge Club withdrew from running the course due to lack of support and the number of other tuition already being offered in the locality. The Chairman is in talks with Taunton Bridge Club as an alternate to Pawlett.

Weston Super Mare also experienced problems with recruitment and have delayed the start of the course until 12/13th January 2019.

It was recognised that advertising was crucial to the success of recruitment for the course, and the budget for each club participating has been doubled. It was considered that newspaper advertising was not cost effective.

As recommended by the EBU membership campaign it was suggested that advertising for the FFtoB course could be carried out through Facebook. **Action:** Tony Russ to follow up

Education Report

The following events are planned:

Scoring & Directors Course given by Frank Coltman and Colin Simcox on 13th October at Woolavington VH
Seminar in Street by Caroline Macpherson 21st October at Street and 16th February 2019 at Ring O'Bells in Nailsea

Andrew Robson event at Webbington Hotel 5th December

Bruton Weekend 29th March 2019

Non affiliated Club Report

Non affiliated clubs are not necessarily aware of the advantages of affiliating and are generally afraid their clubs will change in respect of social ability.

Many clubs are seeing a decline in the numbers attending and the quality of bridge played.

The message to clubs should be that there is no advantage to being small and independent

Chew Valley has encouraged their members to play at Nailsea and enter some of the County events.

Although there is resistance from some clubs to join, it is considered necessary to support these clubs as in the future they may be lost to the County.

The County newsletter and other notifications are issued to all those individuals whose email addresses are registered.

It is accepted that non affiliated clubs, many of whom are very successful, will not affiliate where members feel that it would make the club more competitive and adversely affect the ethos.

Tournament Secretary Report

The rules for the Interclub Competitions are to be amended and will be split into 3 sections. The open section will allow players of any rank to enter. Other sections will be tiered to ensure players are competing at a level to their own ability. This will allow previously excluded players of a high rank to enter the competition.

A new inter club event was proposed for non affiliated clubs. The entry fee would be a reduced to encourage participation but players would not be awarded Master points. The event would be run with a minimum 3 tables. Full revised rules will be available shortly. **Action:** Frank Coltman

A Tournament Director has been arranged for all future events

Table numbers are generally up on events over previous years

Non affiliated clubs are welcome at the Directors and Scoring seminar.

Currently if non affiliated players enter a County event, the Master points awarded to the event are reduced.

The Committee discussed ways of running events specifically to include non affiliated/all members.

It was decided that for the time being County events would be restricted to affiliated members only

This will be referred to the EBU for clarification. **Action:** Tony Russ

EBU Membership Campaign

The EBU have supplied a list of all affiliated clubs in the County, showing current members and lapsed members. It would appear that most clubs are not replacing the lost members and that in order to maintain viability clubs need to recruit 4-6 new members per year to maintain current levels.

The EBU recognise that the Pay to Play policy has resulted in decreased revenue.

EBU has invited the SCBA to join the Campaign and would pay 50% of advertising costs.

The Committee agreed that there were several clubs in the Country experiencing membership issues and help from the SCBA should be offered for advertising, teaching courses etc. The Club Committee should be open to offers of help and be proactive.

It was proposed and agreed that Tony Russ would investigate the cost and implications of recruiting a Campaign Manager to advise clubs on how to regenerate, and report back to the Committee. The Campaign Manager if appointed would report back to a sub Committee headed by Tony Russ to monitor progress

Any Other Business

SCBA expenses policy. The current policy devised in 2013 is considered to be outdated, and is to be updated.

Action: Tony Russ

Joan Pooley, Newsletter Editor has decided to resign from the Committee due to ill health. She will continue to produce the County Newsletter until a replacement editor is found. The Chairman thanked Joan for her past contribution to Committee work

The meeting closed at 4.35pm

Minutes prepared by Daphne Greatorex 23/9/18