

**SCBA**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held online on Tuesday 2nd November 2020**

**PRESENT:**

Tim Warren (Chair); Shirley Pritchard; Jeffrey Allerton; Trevor Hobson; Gail Norman; June Middleton; Suleman Akhtar; Tony Cherrett; John Gallagher; Ron Rutstein.

**APOLOGIES:** John Lemmey

	ACTION
<p>Tim welcomed Ron to the meeting as the new Communications Officer. Ron said he had been a member of Bookham for many years, and was currently their webmaster.</p>	
<p><b>1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p>	
<p>These were agreed.</p>	
<p><b>2. MATTERS ARISING</b></p>	
<p><i>Golf players</i></p>	
<p>Tim had undertaken to ask his golf playing teammates for their views about learning/improving their bridge. The outcome was a degree of scepticism; golfers were frequently very keen on playing bridge but not having lessons.</p>	
<p><i>Trophies</i></p>	
<p>After discussion it was agreed the county should retain the trophies for the Victor Ludorum (with £45 spent on a new base), County Pairs &amp; Plate, the Lady Rose, Mary Edwards, Wanborough Cup, Affiliated Teams of 8, Schools' Cup and Division 1 trophy.</p>	
<p><b>3. CHAIRMAN'S &amp; PRESIDENT'S REPORT</b></p>	
<p>Tim asked Trevor to report on the EBU meeting he had attended which was encouraging clubs who were not already online to try it. Douglas Wright gave a presentation on BCL, and Suffolk gave one on BBO. Jonathan Lillycrop will do a comparison of the various programmes. Tony had used Real Bridge to play in the Autumn Congress and said it was different from BBO but good.</p>	
<p>Tim showed the meeting an outline of his presentation for the Chairman's consultation on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Shirley was concerned that some clubs may not be attending because they had no online presence. The content of the strategy (in document and presentation form) was accepted, subject to consideration at the Chairman's Consultation.</p>	
<p><b>4. COMPETITIONS REPORT</b></p>	
<p>Shirley had circulated two reports on the Green Point event held in September. The final surplus was £1,112.</p>	
<p>The number of entries so far for the Blue Point event next weekend was disappointing, Shirley will send out another email this week.</p>	Shirley
<p>Tim had asked the committee to look at the possibility of running a Pairs ladder event. It was felt that an inter club or even inter county teams matches might be a better option given that Pairs events in clubs are now well established. Suleman asked if there could be a limit on NGS ranking to encourage players who do not usually play in county events. Shirley &amp; Tony will produce a recommendation for the committee's comments.</p>	Shirley & Tony

Trevor reported on a very encouraging take up of league games this season. In addition to the free entry, he felt that the lack of travelling was a major incentive.

There had been no entries for the Novice League this year, but Tony said that he and Douglas could probably get 5 teams together for an end November start.

It was agreed that the Dorin Salver would go ahead with a mixture of clubs, and individuals playing at Caterham. Trevor will contact the remaining 50% of clubs who hadn't yet been contacted or responded regarding their willingness or ability to play in the Sims or the Mary Edwards/Wanborough Cup.

Trevor

### **5. MATCHES REPORT**

Jeffrey said that teams would be entering both the Tollemache and the Met Cup at the end of November.

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Suleman said the newsletter would go out before Christmas. Ron was invited to tell the committee his views on communicating with members. He said that he wanted target groups to be identified, and introduced the idea of developing a matrix under the following headings: "What do players want"? "What more does SCBA want to tell these players"? and "Communication needs".

He felt that players accessing the website was a passive event (they choose to visit the website), whereas receipt of the newsletter was active (we put the newsletter in their inbox). He thought Tim's informal contact group would be useful in identifying the best means of communication. Trevor suggested that Ron contacts committee members individually rather than in a group.

### **7. TEACHING/DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

June reported that bridge in schools had virtually stopped because teachers were too busy dealing with teaching in general during the pandemic. She had asked if any schools were interested in taking part in a Surrey schools league, but only Kings & St Paul's expressed an interest so she has put them in touch.

She is awaiting Kings to agree the use of BBO to have an after-school session.

Tony reported on the difficulties of online teaching for beginners. Neither the teachers nor the pupils are keen on learning online. Some teachers are carrying on with existing classes but students are missing the social side of learning, and it is difficult to assess which students are struggling online.

### **8. FINANCE**

John reported a surplus of £1600 due almost entirely to the GP weekend. He suggested that SCBA should spend some of their reserves on charity donations or bridge development, as he felt £25,000 in investments was out of proportion for a not for profit organisation. He also queried whether charity donations which go straight in and out of the bank account should be mentioned as income in the accounts at all.

It was explained that surplus from match expenses needed to be treated as income but no answer was made for donations collected as part of a match payment.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Tony mentioned a charity he supports in Kenya for which he normally raises £6k annually. With the problems with raising money this year, he is proposing a 500-board challenge over 7 days with sponsorship to play with him. Details will be on the Caterham and EBU websites.

Jeffrey will circulate his recommendations to the other shareholders for the candidates for election at the EBU AGM.

Jeffrey

NEXT MEETING - 19:30 on Tuesday 12th January 2021