

**SCBA**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held online on Tuesday 12th January 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Tim Warren (Chair); Trevor Hobson (President); Shirley Pritchard; Jeffrey Allerton; Gail Norman; John Lemmey; Tony Cherrett; John Gallagher; Ron Rutstein.

**APOLOGIES:** June Middleton

	ACTION
<p>Tim said that both he and Trevor had thanked Suleman Akhtar most warmly for all his help with marketing and communications in the past two years. Ron also mentioned how well organised the handover from Suleman had been.</p>	
<p><b>1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> These were agreed.</p>	
<p><b>2. MATTERS ARISING</b> None</p>	
<p><b>3. UMS PAYMENTS</b> Shirley had circulated an email asking the committee whether the current county UMS of 2p should be retained. It was originally requested specifically for the teaching at Surrey University which has now ceased. The EBU had requested that counties look at their UMS charges and, if applicable should reduce them to assist clubs who may be struggling with expenses during the lockdown. Following discussion, it was agreed that there was now no declared purpose for it, and it cannot therefore be justified. A proposal would be made at this year’s AGM to suspend it from July.</p>	Gail
<p><b>4. PLATFORMS FOR LEAGUE MATCHES</b> Trevor asked the committee for clarification of a situation where two teams could not agree on which platform should be used for league matches. It was agreed that the captains should agree at least one month in advance of a match which platform should be used. If this meant one team having to incur extra costs those costs should be paid by the team requesting to used the paid for platform. It was also agreed that the number of boards played for League Division 4 matches should remain at 20 as a stepping stone between the Novice League (16) and higher leagues (24).</p>	
<p><b>5. MATCHES REPORT</b> Jeffrey reported that the Surrey team came third in the Tollemache qualifying in November, and would therefore be in the final next month. He also congratulated the B team who had come first in the Met Cup.</p>	
<p><b>6. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT/WEBSITE DESIGN</b> Ron asked if the date of end of March was OK for the next newsletter. This was agreed. Tim said that having spoken to both John L and Ron he felt that the website needed rejigging. This would assume we were starting again in both</p>	

content and organisation. Both the means of making the transition and the justification for the effort and the benefits which would accrue would be agreed by the group. A goal would need to be identified. This suggestion was agreed.

Ron/John L/Tim

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

June submitted a written report:

1. I circulated my contacts before Christmas about the Surrey school cup asking for feedback as whether people were interested in online version or a summer term version if it becomes possible as the vaccine is rolled out. From the limited responses I received I don't think many of the schools are doing any bridge as teachers are stretched to breaking point and they dismissed the summer term because of exams.
2. I am planning to follow up with an email in the next week or so when the dust has settled on the chaotic changes of last week and see if things are any different now that exams are cancelled. Teachers may be too stretched with all the exam assessments to commit.
3. I am going to have a discussion with Realbridge about using their platform – maybe I can get a Surrey junior supervised play session running alongside the Sunday morning junior competition they run for junior squads.
4. I am back running a lunchtime session for Kings College using BBO either a teams' match if we get enough or a casual table. We were getting enough for teams in Nov but it took a nose dive in Dec when their Senior school switched to online tuition due to Corona virus outbreaks in the school. First session this term is tomorrow. St Pauls is also managing to play some bridge on BBO and have had a couple of matches after school against Kings. Putney High is also doing something otherwise I think it is a bridge drought in schools.

## **8. FINANCE/CHARITY DONATIONS**

John G repeated his comments made at the last meeting, that as a not-for-profit organisation, surpluses made on County events should not just go into the reserves or reduce the deficit.

He suggested that we tell members what their competition entry fees are spent on, and "what the county is here for "e.g., development.

It was agreed that a banner be placed on the website outlining our main purpose and focus.

## **9. COMPETITIONS REPORT**

Shirley reported that the total amount raised from the Dorin salver this year was £2175. This compares very favourably with £3,053 we raised last year. The number of pairs playing this year was less than half of last year's figure. She also reported that Selsdon would be representing Surrey at this year's Garden Cities.

Details of forthcoming events were given – Mixed Pairs on 31<sup>st</sup> January, and County Pairs heats with an all play all final on 25<sup>th</sup> April. It was also agreed to run a 9 High final on the same day for those pairs who did not qualify for the County Pairs final, and are <NGS 9 on the day of qualification

**10. BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT**

Tony introduced a presentation on "How to get players to play in County Competitions".

He said Surrey should also encourage players to play in EBU events. Events should be tailored around the leading master point list, an example of which could be a club masterpoint challenge, or an event for the most improved players.

Rather than stratification, events should be tailored specifically for those of lower NGS levels.

He had had discussions with Meena and Douglas Wright, and would report back to the committee within a month with suggestions for these targeted events.

It is important to understand that these players do not normally find events by looking at the website, reading the newsletter or receiving general emails. They need to be personally invited to enter.

Tony

John L/Trevor

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

John L had circulated a spreadsheet showing the number of committee members who had access to which parts of the website. He and Trevor would look through this and suggest some recommendations for changes. Members were asked to identify which areas of the website they needed access to.

Tim mentioned that he had had discussion with the Chairman of Essex about the possibility of working more closely together. He would give further details at the next meeting

Trevor mentioned the changes to the EBU rules regarding players being charged with cheating offences. It was agreed at the EBU AGM that once a defendant has been charged, he/she may not play in any Open Competitions including online club games and shall not be eligible for selection for international representation.

Jeffrey mentioned his disquiet at this change of policy, and said it had led to the resignation of Martin Pool from the L&E Prosecution/Disciplinary panel, and he said other resignations might follow.

NEXT MEETING - 19:30 on Monday 22nd March 2021

Gail will circulate the Zoom link with the agenda.

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