

Minutes of The SCBA Committee Meeting held on the 8th January 2016 at Woolavington Village Hall

Present: Gina Howard (Chairperson), Daphne Greatorex, Sheila Coda, Eric Cummings, Tony Russ, Caroline Macpherson, Jean Howard, Mike Whittaker

Apologies: Ken and Ann Bawdon

Introduction new members. Daphne Greatorex has taken over the role of Secretary from Joe Patrick, and Jean Howard the role of Education Secretary from Tony Russ. The committee thanked both retiring officers for their efforts during their terms. Tony Russ will remain as a committee member.

Minutes of last meeting were held to be a true record

Matters arising:

- It was generally agreed that Sunday was a preferred day for competitions/events, as traffic for distance travellers was sometimes a problem on Saturdays, especially in summer, and for some people it may be a workday.
- Missing trophy. The Somerset Championship Pairs trophy still could not be found, and GH will contact both previous winners to ask again to search for the trophy, otherwise the item will be written off. We will consider replacing if it is not found, as it is for a major event. The cost may be able to be claimed from insurance.
- None of the trophies are currently insured or listed, and it was suggested that each trophy should be valued by the engravers with a view to insuring the solid silver ones.
- Historical data on new website not yet completed, the honours book will be handed to AB by SC for action

Treasurers Report. The Congress finances are now available, and the surplus is reduced to about £1300, almost entirely due to the extra cost of hiring the Winter Gardens.

The Andrew Robson seminar was a great success and it was agreed that future events should be arranged, possibly every 2 years. Many entrants were from out of county and many contact emails addresses were gathered.

West of England Congress 2016. The Winter Gardens at Weston Super Mare is unlikely to be available for the 2016 scheduled event date, due to building works. Weston Super Mare College who are to be the new owners are keen to keep the contract with SCBA and have offered alternative accommodation for this year in the College premises. The offered alternative will consist of 2 rooms, over 2 floors within the venue, but with roughly the same capacity as the previous venue. 84 tables should be available but entry numbers may have to be limited. There are no costs available yet. No catering facilities will be provided by the college, as it is normally closed at weekends. Some car parking would be available. It was decided that as a *one off* venue it would be acceptable.

Actions: David Porter to be asked to follow up whether the Bridgemates will work over the two floors.

Selection Committee report. It was felt that many club players were reluctant to enter County events, as they feel they will be outside their comfort zone, although generally the numbers entering County competitions was a little bit up. There was little or no interest at the lower level in the No Fear bridge events. Clubs should be encouraged to put more members forward to events.

Education Report. The Bridge Cafe and Andrew Robson events were well supported, and the profits from the Andrew Robson event should finance future educational events. GH again thanked TR for his efforts as Education Secretary.

Tournament Report. Following comments by players it was decided that the main objective of movements is to try to incorporate "all pairs play all" and "all teams play all". CM to discuss with director and scorers to achieve this aim. The No Fear events were not successful and most were cancelled. These events will not be run next year. Clubs need to encourage their members to enter events. The inter-club events may be resurrected next year.

Bruton Next Step Weekend. Currently 21 people are committed to the event, most needing residential accommodation. More entrants would be desirable but costs have been covered.

Chairman report.

EBU AGM was held in November, but the minutes of the meeting have not published yet, so Chairman will advise later.

SCBA has bought 2 new printers, one for printing duplimated hands, and the other for use at County events. Appeals at League Matches. EBU rules state that 30 minutes within results being published is the recommended time frame. It was decided that in future anyone wanting to appeal a ruling should inform the director by the end of the event, and write 'Subject to Appeal' on the result form. The director should follow up the appeal in a timely manner. Where an irregularity is noticed after the event (e.g. mis-boarding of cards) the appeal time would be extended to 48 hours

Many players at League matches do not have convention cards, and players are risking rulings going against them.

AOB.

Championship Pairs. Currently this consists of a qualifier round and a final round, both on the same day. This causes problems with the length of time taken for the event.

Next year, it would be possible to play it as a one session event, as the EBU regulations concerning the awarding of Green points have changed. However, this would cause problems with the "all play all" requirement if we had a big entry. The committee decided that the issue needed further discussion and that it should be held over to the next meeting.

Knock Out Teams. It was suggested that the event has a plate as well as the main event with plate entry awarded to those knocked out in the first round.

Seeding. A proposal was put forward that the two winning teams in the previous year are subject to simple seeding and are placed in different halves of the draw. This is only if the teams do not change their composition substantially, so they must contain at least 3 members of the original team. A vote was taken, and carried.

Tony Russ has attended, and passed, the county directors course, and is now available to direct at county events.

CM advised that at the beginning of the season, all directors are contacted with list of events and asked to volunteer. The events are then shared between the directors available. The Championship Pairs is usually run by an out of county director, as SCBA members usually want to play in it.

Meeting concluded at 8.40pm. Next meeting provisionally fixed for 15/4/16 at 6.45pm. (Date now confirmed.)

Minutes prepared by D Greatorex 12/1/16