

Minutes of The SCBA Committee Meeting held on the 15th April 2016 at Cossington Village Hall

Present: Gina Howard (Chairperson), Daphne Greatorex, Sheila Coda, Tony Russ, Caroline Macpherson, Jean Howard, Ken Bawdon and Ann Bawdon

Apologies: Michael Whittaker and Eric Cummings

Minutes of last meeting were held to be a true record. All trophies thought to be missing had been found.

Treasurers Report

The Accounts for the year to 31/03/2016 show a surplus of just £1575. The Seminars and Congress contributed some £4600. Most of the County events more or less broke even and generated approximately £400 net. Revenue from all events was down on the previous year by approximately 25%. Swiss teams and teams of 8 generated the highest surpluses. Revenue from the Congress was down 35% because of the increased costs of hiring the Winter Gardens. Costs for entering National/Regional competitions halved and general expenditure was also down. There was a huge turnaround in the seminars last year, with a surplus of almost £2300 compared with a loss of £1400 in the previous year.

It is anticipated that revenue for the coming year will be greatly reduced as the sponsorship is likely to be discontinued, there will be no Andrew Robson seminar and revenue from the Congress will be greatly reduced due to the restriction on entries.

Reserves are around £25,000, but it was decided that competition entry fees should be increased to £12 (£9 without tea) (from £10/£7) to cover anticipated increases in room hire and catering, and that a County P2P component of 2p should be invoked from 01/04/17.

It was decided that prize money should be stopped and replaced by a certificate and an inscribed pen. This to take effect from the 2016/17 playing year

Action: Caroline Macpherson to investigate supplier for pens.

Selection Committee and Education Report

Pachabo Cup

Difficulty in persuading players to represent/compete in the National competitions. Rules prohibit entering the National events unless the players have won the qualifying events, and often the winners are not willing to go on and represent the County

Bob Baker event in Wells February 2016 was over subscribed and the venue was overcrowded. It may be necessary to change venue for future events. Wells Cafe venue was free (not charged) with attendees paying for refreshments. It may be necessary to restrict entry once a safe limit is reached. **Action** Jean Howard to investigate costs of different venue and arrange future seminars with Bob Baker in Wells and Taunton.

Tournament Secretary's Report

No fear bridge events were a disappointment with few entrants and will not be run in future.

Inter club 3 tier events will be restricted to National Master and below, and be stratified.

There is no limit on number of teams per club per event.

Non affiliated clubs to be allowed to enter but would not be awarded Master points.

Barometer pairs event was successful and will be repeated

Point-a- board competition to be run to allow for the higher ranked players

Championship Pairs will be run as last year with a qualifier and final on one day.

Championship teams. The first round will be played at Woolavington, on a set day for everyone. After the first round those knocked out would play for the Plate. Subsequent matches would be organised by individual teams 'privately'. Teams are not club dependant. It was decided that more publicity was needed to make players more aware of events

The Landy Rees cup and inter-club cups will not awarded this year

Michael Coda Cup. Problem with current system is that once a person has played in the event at one club they are not able to play at a second club in the same week if that club is also competing in the competition. This results in less people playing at clubs.

It was suggested that there could be 2 sets of boards, allowing people to play the event twice at two different club if they wished. The results from the two sets could be combined to give one winner.

Action: Committee to discuss at next meeting.

Victor Ludorum

The report prepared by Michael Whittaker to be adopted

Major points are:

Points should only be counted from the 9 core county events.

Points from the County League should not be counted, nor should club based events

Scale to be reduced to 1.5 instead of double for major events.

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report. There are 2 EBU meetings per year, which the Chairman will attend or nominate someone to vote on behalf of SCBA

Michael Whittaker wishes to stand down as Vice Chairman.

Other officers to stand for re-election at AGM

Tony Russ was proposed and seconded to position of Vice Chairman by the committee. To be put to vote at the AGM.

AGM 2016

It is required that notification of the AGM is sent to all Clubs. Notification to be sent out as soon as possible. Daphne Greatorex and Gina Howard to liaise on format and distribution

Calendar and Handbook

Calendar has been drawn up by Caroline McPherson.

Action: Caroline Macpherson to liaise with Michael Whittaker

Any Other Business

West of England Congress.

The tables available need to be reduced to 66 from 72 due to lack of space, and Health & Safety conditions. The website will be changed to display the reduced numbers **Action:** Eric Cummings to update website.

There will be limited refreshment facilities at the venue and people should be advised that they may need to bring their own or be prepared to use local cafes and restaurants.

It was decided to purchase 10 new tables to make up the required 70 for the event (remaining 60 to be borrowed) **Action:** Ann Bawdon to find best supplier for new tables **Action:** Eric Cummings to organise enough Bridgemates by borrowing from various clubs. This will save on the cost of hire.

Pair League Dates

Prepared by Tony Russ and accepted. Venues booked

Meeting was closed at 8.45pm

Next Committee meeting agreed for 15th July 2016 at Woolavington Village Hall at 6.45pm

Prepared by Daphne Greatorex 22/4/16