

Somerset County Bridge Association

Minutes of the meeting held at Woolavington on 16th January 2015

Present: Gina Howard (Chairman), Joe Patrick, Michael Whittaker, Ken and Ann Bawdon, Eric Cummings, Caroline Macpherson

Apologies for absence received from Tony Russ and Sheila Coda

Minutes of the last meeting were approved

Matters arising

1. **County League** .It was agreed the duty club would be responsible for running the evening, when Bob was not there. There should be a supply of event result sheets kept in the stationary box at Woolavington. GH to speak to Bob to update the task list for the on duty club. **action GH**
2. **Dimmie Flemming** award to Bob to be presented at the AGM
3. EC to produce an appropriate club questionnaire as a precursor for a 5 year plan for developing bridge in the County **action EC**

First for Bridge sponsorship

MW agreed to discuss our future relationship with F for B and to put forward proposals to the Committee for its next meeting.

SCBA web site

The Committee agreed there appeared to be no significant reason why the county's main website could not be linked to Facebook. In addition, the SCBA website ideally should move to Bridgewebs to take advantage of a modern website design, and facilitate a fairly simple transition should we lose the services of Tony M. We first need to investigate the facility for competition entries, as well as any other concerns Tony M may have before a final decision is made. MW to discuss with Tony M the way forward whilst Eric will oversee investigation into Bridgewebs capabilities in any areas of concern. If possible the change to Bridgewebs with the Facebook link should occur during this summer. **Action EC/MW**

League match problem

The proposal from the EBU as to how to resolve the cancelled Langport v Wells match was accepted. It was also agreed there should be amendments to the league's rules as suggested by the EBU. This would be done at the end of the season, but in the meantime the ruling for the Langport v Wells match and the circumstances in which it occurred, should be communicated to all league captains. GH to discuss with BW.

Action GH

Treasurers Report

In the year to date our own competitions show a small surplus (£260) The Congress surplus was £3,720, a reduction of just over £300 from last year, but a smaller reduction than expected.

At present our finances are progressing in line with the budget for 2014/15.

The expected sale of the Winter Gardens (WG) to Weston College at the beginning of August 2015 has cast doubt on our Congress venue for 2015 and subsequent years. SCBA is in limbo until further information is available. Various alternatives were discussed including the Webbington Hotel as a venue for the Congress or a one day event. It was agreed this would be investigated in the event of the WG not being available. SCBA has a contract with the WG for 2015 under which we have already made a deposit. David Porter needs to report on any developments as soon as possible.

Action AB

Selection Committee report

The performance of the Tollemache team was disappointing.

CM has requested an explanation about the process adopted, and the reasons why the two particular pairs were chosen for the B team in the Dorset match, after the late notification of the change in the match format was received from Dorset. CM has yet to receive an appropriate reply.

Action TR

The two year period for the Selection Committee ceases at the end of this season. MW to forward details of the process and selection criteria for discussion at the next meeting.

Action MW

Education Report

It was agreed to hire a "man with a van" for transporting tables etc. for Andrew Robson's seminar on 19th November

Action TR

Tournament Secretary's Report

It was agreed that if possible, the county's events calendar in 2015/16 should be more spread out and the AGM held late in July 2016. The draft time table for 2015/16 to be available for the next meeting.

Action MW

So far no issues had arisen with playing Directors.

Another chair trolley was needed . GH will approach the Woolavington committee on the basis SCBA would purchase and store it at Woolavington

Action GH

Chairman's Report

A very grateful thanks to Ann Bawdon for the work she has done duplicating the boards over the years. This was heartily endorsed by the committee.

Alan Atkinson has taken on the task of duplicating, being paid 11p per board

Bidding boxes and cloths would now be kept at Woolavington

Prizes for low ranking /non expert players to be discussed at the next meeting **Action JP**

AOB

It was not necessary to have a subcommittee for decisions in between meetings. When necessary an "E" mail should be sent by the chairman to Committee members for small issues like chair trolleys, indicating action to be taken with a response requested within a short period only if not in agreement.

The scoring computer may need replacing due to a mechanical issue. EC is investigating the fault and if he cannot resolve, it was agreed a new computer should be purchased.

Date of next meeting

Friday 13th March at 6.45pm at Woolavington