

Minutes of committee meeting of Somerset Contract
Bridge Association

on the 15th December 2022 via Zoom

In attendance:

Tony Russ (Chair)

Richard Feetenby (Treasurer)

Paul Burgess

Colin Simcox

John Cockram

Sheree Pavey (Secretary)

Apologies Simon Brooke and Frank Coltman

1. Minutes of last meeting

Tony referred to the last minutes and asked for any matters arising. There were none.

2. Accounts

Tony reported that the Congress was financially healthier than anticipated. The surplus was just £13 but considering the event was expected to run at a loss this was very welcome. There were savings made on directors fees (one less director) and the tiny surplus was

made despite the lack of sponsorship as in previous years.

There followed a discussion on the number of tables at the congress. More tables obviously attracted more money at no extra cost but logistically smaller numbers were easier to handle.

Richard Feetenby gave an outline of the accounts.

Currently there is

£17,000 in two Lloyds accounts

£21,000 in Bonds

£7,500 available to clubs (£1,000 claimed)

Total available funds is £45,000

In terms of tournaments:-

Swiss Teams made £324 the costs were £464 a loss therefore of £140

Paul Jones event was free to participants and a loss suffered of £236

Richard had secured a refund from Woolavington village Hall of £650 which offset these losses .

Tony agreed that a reminder should be sent to County Clubs reminding them of the funds available to clubs and inviting them to apply.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the availability of dealing machines and whether the county should invest in another one. A conclusion was not reached but it as an idea that was agreed to be kept under review.

Richard asked that when Woolavington is booked that the organisers be more mindful of numbers as the cost of hiring the small hall and the large hall was significant.

3. Andrew Robson

Although bookings were slower they were nevertheless promising. 62 out of the 88 tickets had been sold. £1,360 already banked.

4. Michael Coda Cup

There had been a disappointing response to the recent emails. Uptake was reasonably low and fragmented. Tony stressed how important the event was as a charity event.

There followed a discussion about the logistics of transporting the boards across the county particularly in light of the lack of dealing machines in the north of the county.

It was concluded that given the difficulty of organising the event it would return to the previous year's format i.e clubs would play their own boards and the highest overall score would win. Richard suggested that an alternative would be to invite the highest 20 scorers be invited to Woolavington to compete for the cup. All present considered this to be a very good idea.

5. Selection

Tony expressed disappointment at the county being unrepresented at the Tollemache.

EBU AGM

The EBU AGM had recently taken place. A major change agreed at the AGM that clubs/counties needed to be aware of were changes to the green, blue and black pointed events. In future the following will apply:-

National events attract green points

County events blue; and

Clubs black points.

6. Tournament Programme 2023/24

Tony congratulated John and Frank for the speed at which the tournament programme had been constructed.

A discussion followed about the viability of "standard" events that just were not attracting the numbers and often being cancelled. Many events could switch to online. Overall Tony thought now was the time to revamp the programme. John was happy to go along with this and very much welcomed comments via email.

It was felt that club chairs should encourage members to participate in county events and Tony agreed to email each chair.

7. Any other business

Tony reiterated his intention to stand down as chair in May, he expressed his hope that someone was keen or contemplating putting themselves forward and he hoped the committee would consider this.

Minutes prepared by Sheree Pavey

14th December 2022