

Minutes of SCBA Committee Meeting

25th May 2026

via Zoom

Present: -

Andy Ridgers

Sally Stuttard (chair)

Sheree Pavey (Secretary)

Alan Evans

Simon Brooke

Dave Lambert

Annie Holder

Davina Lord

John Cockram

Colin Simcox

1. **Apologies**

Michael Wigmore

Richard Feetenby

2. **Minutes of meeting dated 28th November**

Approved.

3. **Matters arising**

None

4. **Conduct and Disciplinary Committee**

Andy Ridgers outlined the history and formation of the Conduct and Disciplinary Committee which was formed as a result of the EBU's request that matters of complaint be dealt with initially by the county. The Committee originally consisted of three members, two of whom are no longer serving members. Andy requested others join him; Simon Brooke and David Lambert both volunteered.

5. **Collaboration with Dorset Contract Bridge**

The approach by Dorset Contract Bridge was discussed. It was concluded that occasional teams from Dorset joining the league was a good idea but that it was important to maintain the integrity of the league or more specifically the Somerset league; too many teams from Dorset could potentially destabilise the league that Somerset enjoys. Bob Warrender does a very good job

and it was very important to the committee that he not be overloaded with bureaucratic problems that out-of-county teams may present.

Sally agreed to make contact with Michael Hornung to discuss the conclusions with him but also to provide him with John Cockram's details to discuss potential further collaboration.

6. **SCBA Whatsapp Group**

Dave Lambert discussed the potential advantages of setting up a county-wide WhatsApp group on the back of already existing club WhatsApp groups. It was noted that not all clubs had WhatsApp groups. The idea would be to create an umbrella group that could make announcements as to county events. The number of WhatsApp posts would be very limited. Sheree agreed to contact all county clubs over the next few weeks and attempt to update club information currently held on the SCBA website. Once this has been done then it would be easier and more efficient for Dave to make with contact each club.

7. **Congress 2026**

Frank Coltman joined the meeting and reported that he had made contact with all the clubs with the promotional material. 750 emails had been dispatched to all previous attendees. The advertisement was now on the website with a link to the venue. Alan had sorted out the entry form on the website, entries are beginning to register. Given the change of venue (The Canalside in Bridgwater), Frank will send an email closer to the date, giving directions and confirming that parking is available for everyone.

The Webbington had been provisionally booked for 2027.

8. **Tournament Programme**

John explained that there were a few events this year when Kathy will not be available. Annie had in previous years supplied sandwich platters from Waitrose and Marks and Spencer but this did cause extra work. It was decided not to cater at these events that Kathy could not cover, and that attendees would bring their own food. Annie thought it would be a very worthwhile gesture for individuals to bake and bring cakes for teatime. The response was positive to the suggestion.

The 9 high Corwen Cup events had been organised, after a successful and popular programme last year, the same clubs would again be hosting.

John was keen to consider the possibility that quite a few events could be moved out of Woolavington. A few venues were considered, some were not suitable because of the number of tables available. The Victoria Social Club in Street was

considered as a very good venue. John would go ahead and consider alternative venues with various clubs.

The possibility of reducing the number of events was also considered. It was difficult to ascertain whether it was the events or the Woolavington venue that was putting attendees off.

Simon Brooke confirmed that Andrew Robson was going ahead again for 2027 at the Victoria Social Club in Street.

9. **AOB**

Alan Evans referred to Bob Warrender's circular regarding the league which was to be distributed shortly. The teams could now call themselves by their club or if they wished – by their team captain.

An approach had been made for a grant towards an improved dealing machine. The Committee had appointed a sub-committee to consider requests for grants.

Sheree had been approached by individuals seeking bridge teaching. The availability of club teaching currently being offered was Winscombe and Frome. There were additional teachers offering small group lessons, which were in full swing and currently not taking on new learners.