

Somerset Contract Bridge Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Saturday 18th June 2016 at Woolavington Village Hall

1. A period of silence took place to remember the following deceased members:

Lindsay Hewson – Nailsea
Peggy White, Alan Gotts, Joyce Churchill, Edith Hearn - Taunton
David Keys – Taunton & Minehead
David Beach, David Doyle, Majorie Lund, Karen Blackwood – Minehead
Anne McBride – Wells
Vera Gould – Street
Nick Nicholls – Burnham, Winscombe, Cannington
Nigel Mallett – Cheddar & Wedmore

2. Apologies for Absence.

Ken & Ann Bawdon, Tom Gibbard, Michael Whittaker, Joe & Daphne Patrick, Anne Harris, Jean Howard, David Thrush, David Porter, Nigel Maggs

3. 2015 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved (Proposed by Sheena Lanham, seconded by Joan Pooley).

4. Matters Arising from the 2015 minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairperson's Annual Report: please see attached

6. Treasurer's Report: please see attached

Accounts were accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Sheila Coda, seconded by John Gibbs

7. Vote on the recommended subscription fee, and county component Pay to Play fee for the 2017/18 membership Year.

The motion to raise the subscription fee from £10 to £12 was carried by the majority to take effect immediately.

The motion to levy 2p per player P2P was carried by the majority to take effect from April 2017

8. Tournament Secretary's Report: please see attached

A fuller report will be posted to the county website at a later date

9. Election of Officers and other Executive Committee

Members Existing committee members:

Gina Howard – Chairperson
Tony Russ – Vice-chairperson
Sheila Coda – Membership Secretary
Caroline Macpherson- Tournament Secretary
Daphne Greatorrex – General Secretary
Eric Cummings – Committee

Jean Howard – Committee

The above were all willing to continue and there being no other nominations, were proposed by John Gibbs, seconded by Jenny McDermott, and duly elected 'en bloc' for a further term

10. Any Special Resolutions:

There were none.

11. Any Other Business:

None.

A vote of thanks was made by Sheena Lanham, on behalf of members, to Gina Howard for all her hard work for the SCBA. Thanks were also expressed to John Staite for maintaining the trophies and Andy Ridgers for his work in the running of events

The meeting was closed at 13.50pm and was followed by the presentation of prizes

A 16 table Swiss Teams event then took place, the winners being Caroline Macpherson, Katrina Foote, Sally Stuttard and Chris Thomas

Chairperson's Address at the 2016 AGM

Welcome

Thank you for giving up your time to come to your county association's AGM. I am pleased that you have all turned out today, and I extend a warm welcome to you all.

In this address I will be reviewing last year with particular reference to

(a) The SCBA's financial position

(b) County Representative Competitions, SCBA Competitions, and Changes to our Competition Events for 2016/17

(c) The Work of the SCBA Committee

(d) Your Committee in the coming year

SCBA's Financial Position

Reserves and Financial Policy

At the AGM of two years ago, the membership voted for a number of measures:-

1. Keeping a nil membership fee
2. Not raising any funds through a county P2P component charge on our affiliated clubs
3. Retaining a fixed charge of £10 for all of our one day events
4. Continuing to run an education programme that is largely free for members, and
5. A policy of maintaining all of our equipment and assets in good working order.

This period is now over, and as you will see from the accounts circulated at this meeting, we had a surplus of £1575 this year. Reserves went up by a similar amount, to £24,978. This is good news, however, without the Andy Robson seminar, we would have been showing a loss of around £700. It is excellent that this seminar provided over £2000 for SCBA funds, but events like this can only be considered as a one-off, and cannot be relied on for future income. To put this into context, other educational seminars had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

As expected, the surplus of £2399 generated from the West of England Congress was considerably lower than last year. Even so, this event is still our largest source of revenue. We expect it to fall again in 2016 as the Congress will be held in premises owned by Weston College, instead of the Winter Gardens, and the number of tables will be limited to 66.

Based on conservative assumptions, it is quite possible that in 2016/17 we could incur a deficit of up to £3000. We will continue our efforts to increase participation in County events, but even if successful this will not be enough.

As a consequence of these factors, the SCBA committee are recommending changes to the funding. We are recommending that the cost of a one-day event is increased from £10 to £12 with immediate effect, which will raise about £1300 if the level of participation in County events does not fall. We are also recommending that a 2p county pay to play component charge is levied on our affiliated clubs. There are 15 clubs who meet on 21 evenings each week, so with an average attendance of 6 tables, this should raise about £500. This amount is not large, at less than £1 per annum per EBU NGS registered Somerset member. Later on you will be asked to vote to approve these changes. Remember that the P2P change will not come into force until 1 April 2017. In addition, your Committee has decided that cash prizes will no longer be given for County competitions from 2016/17. These prizes have not increased in value for many years, and are really only a token, but abolishing them will save £900 for the county. The increase in table money and the saving on cash prizes will come into force this year, and will swell the coffers by £2400. The County P2P component will not affect the accounts until 2017/18. We are not recommending that Somerset charge a membership fee. Also, we will continue to run our education events, some of which are free, and will maintain all of our assets in good working order.

The County Representative Teams, County Events, and County Events in the coming season

1. County Representative Teams

Our three Western League teams, competing in divisions A B & C of the competition, finished 4th = / 6th and 2nd respectively, well done, especially to the C division.

We also entered a team for the Tollemache qualifier held in December 2015, the blue riband event for counties. We finished 4th out of 8 in our group, a creditable performance in a good field.

The County sent two pairs to the Corwen Trophy on the basis of their performance in the County Championship pairs, but were unable to field a team for the Pachabo Cup, as members of the two teams playing in the final of our County Knockout event were not available.

Taunton Bridge Club won the County Teams of Eight competition, and subsequently went forward to the Regional Final of the Garden Cities championship, representing Somerset. They came 2nd in this, and qualified for the National Final. Congratulations to them in their success, and good luck in the final next week.

2. County Events

Entries to County events in total, excluding the Michael Coda Simultaneous event, were approximately 700, down by 68 on last year, but down by approximately 150 if measured against 3 years ago, when the level of participation was over 800. Participation in county events is still at a very low level compared to years gone by, and the trend is downwards. On a positive note, entries to the Michael Coda cup which is played at clubs were up by 80, at 470. Somerset has 652 members with an EBU NGS ranking, but only just over a third of them played in the county events in the 2015/16 season, and a lot of those only entered the odd event or two. This shows we have a large untapped reservoir of players, who might take part if the events were more attractive to them. Last year we tried to run a series of events for less experienced players, but despite a lot of hard work and arm twisting by our Tournament Secretary, they did not attract a large entry, and several had to be cancelled. These events will not run again in the coming season. However, the inter-club teams and pairs, which were dropped last year will be reinstated. These events will allow the less experienced players to be selected by their clubs, and to earn points for the club trophy.

The County League is one of our very successful events. It is a club representative event, and has 3 divisions with relegation and promotion. Last season we had a total of 30 teams taking part. It was great to see this number of teams, even if it strained the capacity of Woolavington Village Hall to its limits. The County Teams of Four, also known as the County Knockout Teams, is one of our premier events, and is suffering with a loss of participation. A draw is made at the beginning of the season, and matches are played privately. This year, for the first time, we have decided that the first round will be played at Woolavington on a set date, as an experiment to see whether this increases participation. However, if a team wants to enter the competition, and has a very good reason why they cannot play on the set date, we will allow the first round to be played privately, as there has not been a great deal of notification regarding this change. There will also be a plate competition, for teams knocked out in the first round. The Victor Ludorum scoring has also been amended this year. There are several reasons for this. All club representative events have been removed from the scoring to allow everyone an equal chance, the enhancement for larger fields has been removed, as this was seen as favouring pairs events over teams events since they usually get a bigger entry, and the enhancement for the higher profile events has been reduced from 2 times to 1.5 times. Full details can be found on the website.

The competition booklet will be available soon, and details will (as usual) be available on the website, so don't forget to get your entries in early.

The Work of the SCBA Committee and Sub-Committees

A team of unpaid volunteers undertake the annual work of our Association, and we have a lot of people to thank for everything the SCBA does.

1. Thanks for the County Committee Work in 2015/16

In my second year as the Chairman, I have been fortunate to be supported by a hard working county committee, who freely give up a lot of their time to provide a comprehensive programme of events, and to ensure the affairs of the county are run efficiently. So on behalf of the Association's members, I would like to thank all of your Committee members for their work throughout 2015/16.

2. West of England Congress

The revenue that is generated from a successful West of England Congress is vital for the finances of the SCBA, and benefits us all. The Congress continues to be one of the most successful county run congresses in the country. It is a very large undertaking and once again last year we were full up on the final day with 85 tables in play in the Swiss Team's event. I would like to thank Ann Bawdon for her excellent administration. I would also like to thank David Porter for his chairmanship of the event, and all other SCBA members who supported David and Ann during the Congress weekend itself.

3. County Events Programme

Outside of the West of England Congress, we have a large programme of county sponsored events. Running such a programme takes a lot of organisation, administrative support and event management. I would like to thank all the Committee members involved with the county programme for a large amount of work behind the scenes. I would also like to thank all members outside of the Committee who are involved with directing and scoring, as well as those who assisted with transportation of pre dealt hands to and from the events.

Woolavington continues to be the venue for the majority of our county events. In addition, we store bidding boxes, table cloths and stationery at the venue. This minimises the work needed in moving equipment around the county, and has also provided a central Somerset location. As I mentioned last year, the average travel time from our affiliated clubs to Woolavington is just 36 minutes, and for most clubs it is much lower. However, members of the three clubs on the extremities of our area, Frome and Minehead and Yeovil, have a longer journey than this. Apologies to them for this, but if county events moved around, the logistics involved in ferrying about all the equipment would be horrific. With an ageing membership, the benefits of a central location are substantial.

4. The Selection Sub Committee

The county selection sub-committee is re-elected every 2 years, and this process took place just over a year ago. Tony Russ is the Chairman, and he is ably assisted by Colin Juneman, Sheila Coda, and Stewart Upton. Our thanks are due to them for all their work in selecting teams for the Western League, the Tollemache, and a number of other representative events.

5. The County Website

The new County website has been in operation for a year. It is well used, and easy to navigate. Almost all competition entries now come in via the website, and it is always up to date with news and competition results. Our thanks go to Eric Cummings and Tony Russ for their hard work in this area.

6. Education Events

Tony Russ has again run a programme of education events for players of all abilities, and we hope to have a similar programme next season. Two Bridge Café events were held, in Taunton and Wells, and both attracted excellent numbers. An education seminar run by Andy Robson in September was a sell-out, and a weekend seminar run by Tony Russ and Caroline Macpherson was well supported and enjoyed by all. These two events provided income for SCBA.

7. The County's Nominated Charity

I am delighted that 235 pairs, 470 people played in our Michael Coda Simultaneous event in February, and that £1697.80 was raised for this year's county nominated charity, Somerset Cancer Care.

I would like to thank Ken and Ann Bawdon for administering the Michael Coda Cup event, and Colin Juneman for preparing the commentary.

Changes to Your Committee

We had two resignations during the year. Joe Patrick resigned as Secretary, and also resigned from the Committee. He had served for four years. Tony Russ resigned from his responsibility for the Education programme, but continues to serve on the Committee. Many thanks to both of them for all of their work on our behalf. Daphne Greatorex was co-opted to take on the office of Secretary, and Jean Howard was co-opted as a member of the Committee with special responsibility for our Education programme.

Thanks to them both for stepping into the breach.

This year, seven members of last year's Committee are seeking election again, and three have decided to stand down. Caroline Macpherson, Sheila Coda, Eric Cummings, Tony Russ, Jean Howard, Daphne Greatorex and Gina Howard are all seeking re-election. Later on at this meeting, I hope that you will vote us back in for another year. Mike Whittaker, Ann Bawdon and Ken Bawdon have decided to retire after serving for many years. Many thanks to all three for their hard work on our behalf. We currently have both officer and member vacancies, so there is room for others to become involved, and some new blood is always welcome. There are only four meetings per year, so the time demands are not enormous.

Mike Whittaker spent 6 years as Chairman, having been on the Committee for a few years beforehand as an officer. He was catapulted into the position at short notice, taking over early when Paul Wickham unfortunately became very ill during his second year as Chairman. Initially, they were difficult years, as they involved the introduction of pay to play, and all of the negotiations and changes this involved. In addition, he revised the SCBA constitution, bringing it up to date and making it fit for purpose. For the last two years he has been Vice Chairman, being responsible for the County booklet, and running the County Teams of Four. We will miss him on the Committee, with his logical approach to problems, his thorough financial analyses, and his clear way of setting out possible alternative courses of action in response to any issue.

Ann Bawdon organised the One Day Green Pointed events that SCBA used to hold at the Webbington Hotel for 5 years from 1997-2001. She joined the SCBA Committee in 2001, 15 years ago, when David Brown was our Chairman. She has been the West of England Congress Secretary since 2004. The work for the Congress goes on throughout the year, and Ann carries it out efficiently. She is well known and liked by all of our regular Congress attendees, and will be missed. She has decided to stand down, and the 2016 Congress will be her last as Secretary. Hers will be a difficult act to follow. Ann was also instrumental in SCBA's purchase of a dealing machine, and for many years she single-handedly dealt boards for all of our County events. In recognition of this work, we are awarding Ann a Life Membership of the SCBA.

Ken Bawdon has been our Treasurer for five years. It is not very visible or glamorous, but it is a demanding and important role, and Ken does it quietly and efficiently. This stint as Treasurer is his second time, as years ago he was also Treasurer, again for a period of five years. Our grateful thanks go to him for this work. I am sure that Ken has also been roped in by Ann to assist with the Congress work. Ann and Ken together have also directed our annual Swiss Teams competition for many years, since well before computer scoring made this sort of event easier. In recognition of his work, Ken is also being awarded Life Membership of the SCBA.

Sheila Coda has been on the SCBA Committee for over 30 years, since before the split from Avon CBA in 1989. She took over as Membership Secretary in 1986. The post of Membership Secretary used to be very onerous years ago, before the widespread use of computers, and she was required to collect and manage both SCBA and EBU subscriptions, keep a log of members, and make payments to the EBU. Sheila also manages the Honours Book and the trophies, a surprisingly time consuming task. For many years, before we had storage space at Woolavington Village Hall, Sheila used to take home all

the bidding boxes and cloths, and transport them to every County event, wherever it might be held. On occasions, she also washed the table cloths, and sorted out the bidding boxes. This sort of dedication required recognition, and I am pleased to report that we have decided to award Life Membership of SCBA to Sheila.

As you can see, we currently have vacancies on the SCBA Committee, for Treasurer and Congress Secretary, but also for ordinary members. If you would like to volunteer, please see me at some stage. You don't need to wait to be nominated at next year's AGM, as additional members can be co-opted at any time.

I was elected as your new chairperson two years ago, and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in office. I am standing for re-election, and hope to be given the support of the members a little later on.

Gina Howard

18 June 2016

SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

		2016	2015
		£	£
INCOME	Competition Income (net):		
	County Competitions	369	532
	West of England Congress	2,399	3,716
	Charitable Events including Donations	1,697	1,417
	Other		
	Net surplus from Seminars	2,277	
	Sponsorship (not including £87.75 for Coda Cup prizes)	300	
	EBU Bridge For All payments	69	63
	Interest (net)	56	51
	Total Income	7,167	5,779
EXPENDITURE	Regional and National Competition Entries and Expenses	1,024	2,063
	SCBA Website and Handbook	273	420
	Insurance	379	317
	Table Storage	240	240
	Postage, Telephone and General Administration	29	186
	EBU Delegates Expenses	79	78
	AGM Subsidy	261	128
	Depreciation	1,044	1,237
	Donations to Charities	1,697	1,417
	Expenses re Charity Event	189	91
	Computer, Printer and duplicating machine costs	222	68
	TD Training	195	
	Net cost of seminars		1,417
	Total Expenditure	5,632	7,662
	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	1,535	(1,883)

COMPETITION INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

INCOME	Entry Fees, Table and Tea Money	8,576	9,464
EXPENDITURE	Venue Hire	2,117	2,037
	Teas and Refreshments	3,275	3,829
	Directors' and Scorers' Fees and Expenses	876	1,205
	Prizes, Honours and Engraving	894	1,062
	Licence fees/Pay to Play fees	478	484
	Board Duplication and Copying	286	178
	Stationery and Other Costs	281	137
		8,207	8,932
	NET INCOME FROM COUNTY COMPETITIONS	369	532

WEST OF ENGLAND CONGRESS - 2015

INCOME	Entry Fees	15,770	16,051
EXPENDITURE	Venue Hire	4,000	2,500
	EBU Licence fees	2,353	2,549
	Prize Money	3,335	3,615
	Directors' fees and expenses	2,322	2,268
	Stationery/Printing/Copying	235	281
	Postage/Telephone	9	16
	Engraving	72	90
	Gratuities	80	91
	Cost of transporting tables and boards	190	268
	Additional duplicating of boards	324	133
	Hire of Bridgemates	153	139
	Refreshments for Directors and Helpers	198	285
	Honoraria	100	100
		13,371	12,335
	Surplus	2,399	3,716

SOMERSET CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016

	2016	2015	
Fixed Assets:			
Trophies	1,384	1,384	
Tables	552	690	
Bidding Boxes, Boards and Cards	1,032	1,290	
Bridgemates	1,078	1,726	5,090
	4,046		
Current Assets:			
Lloyds Bank - Treasurers' Account	586	1,813	
Lloyds Bank - Business Instant Access Account	7,602	2,141	
Scottish Widows 60 Day Treasury Account	16,808	16,755	
Cash in hand		2	
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	6,590	2,151	22,862
	31,586		
	35,632		27,952
Current Liabilities:			
Prize Fund	900	1,000	
Sundry Creditors	8,219	1,974	2,974
	9,119		
NET ASSETS	26,513		24,978
Represented By:			
Accumulated Funds			
General Fund as at 1st April 2015	24,978	26,861	
Suplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,535	(1883)	
TOTAL FUNDS	26,513		24,978

NOTES: These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention on an accruals basis. Income and expenditure is generally accounted for in the period to which it relates irrespective of whether actually received or paid within that period except that entry fees for the County League and Pairs League are accounted for in the year the competition starts.

Fixed Assets are depreciated by annual instalments over their estimated useful lives.

Examined and in accordance with the accounting records
(A Harris) 24/05/2016

Tournament Secretary's Report AGM June 2016

A mixed year with disappointments: the Non Expert events proving unpopular, but also encouragement: numbers in other events holding up well and new faces continuing to join in at County Level.

Barometer Pairs proved popular and will be held again on 23rd July.

County Percentage. Although the change to an individual final was worrying for some, the feeling amongst those who took part was generally positive and the competition will continue in the same form this year.

County League continues to be well supported and if numbers continue to rise we may well be seeing 4 divisions in the coming season.

Changes for 2016_17

Championship Knock out Teams

In recent years we have had very few entries for this so we propose 2 changes for next season: the first round will be played as head to head matches at

Woolavington on Sunday 9th September with the draw being made in advance.

Winners will then go forward to the knock-out stage played privately as now. 1st & 2nd round losers will automatically qualify for a **Plate competition**. If any team genuinely cannot make the 1st round, dispensation will be granted to play the match privately.

Inter Club competitions.

These will be reinstated this year with a few changes: they are restricted to players under the rank of National Master and although all-play-all events, will be "stratified" into 3 roughly equal sections by NGS ranking. Clubs may enter any number of teams/pairs and club points will be awarded in each section as before.

Point-a-Board Teams. An experiment to finish the season !

Do visit the County website regularly for further details and updates and if you are NOT currently receiving up-to-date news on competitions and educational events please let us have your email.

The closing date for entries continues to be the Sunday before but please try to make entries in advance of this so that all the administration associated with running these events does not have to be done at the last minute.

<http://www.bridgewebs.com//somerset>

scbanewsletter@gmail.com