

Minutes of committee meeting of Somerset Contract Bridge Association
on the 26th April 2023 via Zoom

In attendance:

Tony Russ (Chair)

Richard Feetenby

Colin Simcox

John Cockram

Sheree Pavey

Andrew Ridgers

Simon Brooke

Frank Coltman

Apologies Ceri Pierce and Paul Burgess

1. Minutes of last meeting

Tony referred to the last minutes and asked for any matters arising.

The Michael Coda cup event was discussed. The consensus was that the event in the new format was welcomed and overall a great success. . John felt greater clarity was required on how exactly the event was being run.

2. Programme

John C in collaboration with Frank C had prepared a schedule of events for 2023/24, loosely based on last year. Discussion followed particularly in relation to costs and falling participation in face to face events at Woolavington versus online events . John C was keen to hold an under 9 s event and it was proposed that the stratified pairs event in July be replaced with under under 9s game , Simon pointed out that often under 9s are reticent to play for six hours and it was suggested that the day be split with 2 sessions of bridge, tea and an hour's teaching.

Richard also suggested that the mixed pairs be held online.

John C pointed out that County Clubs should actively promote/encourage County events in addition to website details and regular emails.

3. Congress

Frank confirmed that an advertisement would appear in the EBU magazine over the next 3 issues. The venue had been booked. He hadn't yet dealt with hotel deals but that was in hand. Richard F pointed out that advertising was more expensive now than in previous years and this should be accounted for in ticket prices.

4. Finance

Richard Feetenby gave an outline of the accounts.

This was the first year that costs exceeded income. This trend was possibly going to continue for the next two years. There were costs to which the Association were committed and to achieve revenue to cover was unlikely. It was anticipated that Congress and County events were expected to break even. Overall, the Committee agreed the County should and could afford to ride the deficit and agreed with Tony R, this was better reframed as investment. Richard F agreed caution when booking Woolavington in that clearly the small hall was significantly cheaper than the big hall.

5. AGM

All those attending this meeting, except Tony were happy to be re-elected.

There followed discussion on the fact that nobody had come forward to volunteer to be chairman. Tony agreed to circulate an email to the membership asking for a volunteer.

In terms of preparation Tony was still waiting for one or two committee reports.

The format of the game following the AGM was discussed but it was decided that people would show up with their partners.

6. Any other business

Andy R mentioned that in previous years members could sign up for games as soon as the programme was available. In recent years sign-up was only available in the weeks before the event. The benefits of signing up 6 months in advance were discussed. No change to the current system was envisioned.

Richard F asked Tony whether the Bruton weekend was no longer going ahead. Tony pointed out it was Caroline M's annual project and he would make enquiries with her.

Minutes prepared by Sheree Pavey

26th April 2023.