

Minutes of committee meeting of Somerset Contract Bridge Association
on the 19th April 2022 via Zoom

In attendance:

Tony Russ (Chair)

Ceri Pierce

Sheree Pavey,

Eric Cummings

Paul Burgess

Colin Simcox

Simon Brooke

Gillian Toogood

Apologies Frank Coltman, Richard Feetenby, Colin Simcox

1 Minutes of last meeting

2. No matters arising.

3 Michael Coda Cup

Two letters had been received one from Ann Bawdon and the Clevedon club, regarding the continuing format of the annual charity competition.

The committee largely agreed with Ann Bawdon's suggestion that different hands be set for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The overall winners would have achieved the highest percentage. As a charity event the focus should be on attracting the highest donations/contributions for the chosen charity even if the strict competition criteria was reduced. It was noted that Sheila Coda was in favour of the system and that was important to the integrity of the competition.

4 Accounts

Richard was currently on holiday, the committee were not given a financial report but has Richard's assurances that the Association was in good financial health.

5. Western League

Somerset had performed well in the Western League. Andy had provided a detailed write-up which can be viewed on the SCBA website. Eric Cummings praised the organisation and thought that playing the league online was significantly more convenient and highly likely to remain. Tony congratulated the players on their success.

6. West of England Congress

The 2022 Congress venue had been booked. The best deal that could be secured for the event at the Winter Gardens in Weston Super Mare at around £4,000. The publicity for the event would be launched in June/July. Last year's event although not profitable did nevertheless break even and was the only face to face Congress that took place in 2021.

7. Learn Bridge in Somerset

Tony presented details of a plan to provide a resource for those clubs wishing to teach but are without a teacher. All clubs have received this information and have until the end of April to express an interest in participation.

8. It was noted that the AGM has been postponed until September. All members present committed to standing for re-election at that meeting.

9. The SCBA programme for next season was discussed and agreed. The County League will continue to be played online as will the championship teams albeit with an option to play f2f if both sides agree. All other events are planned f2f at Woolavington.

10. AOB

Simon raised the question of publicising clubs, although his particular committee were not enthusiastic about advertising. He nevertheless wanted to investigate the possibility of advertising in local/ community newsletters. Paul reported that Chew Valley club had achieved some success in advertising locally and Gillian reported the same for Winscombe. Simon pointed out the difficulties of administering a bridge club were that levels of expertise were so varied and was hoping to attract a more experienced player to the club. Tony pointed out that differing levels of expertise were inevitable in continuation of clubs.

Minutes prepared by Sheree Pavey