

Minutes of committee meeting of Somerset Contract Bridge Association
on the 23 June 2025
via Zoom

In attendance:

Sally Stuttard
Davina Lord
Alan Evans
Frank Coltman
Annie Holder
Richard Feetenby
Colin Simcox
John Cockram
Sheree Pavey
Andrew Ridgers

Apologies:-
Michael Wigmore
Simon Brooke

1. Minutes of last meeting 21st March 2025

Approved

2. Matters Arising

The applicant for funding had now with the assistance of SCBA purchased several tablets and a server. A laptop had also been purchased but outside of the original assistance. Alan Evans had worked with the club and reported that all seemed to be working really well.

3. Congress 2025

Frank Coltman joined the meeting to provide an update on the upcoming congress. He had been in contact with Fred Bridge a bridge holiday company who had agreed to sponsor the event by providing holiday vouchers as prizes. Frank will send out a follow-up email to all past participants informing them of this.

As far as entries were concerned they were slow and few had signed up but Frank hoped this would pick up with another email going out in mid July.

John Cockram had made it clear to the management at the Webbington hotel that the booking was just for the function rooms and did not cover accommodation. Participants were welcome to contact the hotel direct to make any booking of rooms and meals.

Colin Simcox will be dealing all the boards. John Cockram also mentioned that he too had a large number of boards.

Colin enquired as to the possibility of advertising the Congress in the regular EBU circulars (emails). Frank Coltman and Richard Feetenby pointed out that it was not a cheap option, the cost was £400 and not especially effective. A half page advert in the magazine was in the region of £400. £1800 was put aside for advertising in the past, but Frank pointed out that was to cover a sizable number of tables.

Neighbouring counties had been asked to advertise on their websites and all SCBA clubs had been asked to display on their sites. A few had already but a sizable number had not yet displayed the poster.

Frank Coltman then left the meeting.

4. Tournament Programme

The next event was the 9 high Tournament at Cossington. Mike Cotterill had agreed to help out and Andy Ridgers was directing.

Annie Holder asked about sorting out the boards. Sally Stuttard said that Taunton had a dealing machine. Andy Ridgers and Colin Simcox explained the requirements for the boards.

Paul Jones was next on the list on 24th August and John Cockram explained that he would require a director for the event. In time members would need to be chased up. Caroline Macpherson would be asked to deal the boards.[John Cockram]

5. The League

A policy of penalising teams that could not attend the league on the specified dates had been formalised.

The policy of not allowing league dates to be rearranged by participating teams was decided as correct. The rearranging of events had been cumbersome on Bob Warrender and non-offending teams and it was decided that this should not be allowed to continue. Teams should seek to cover any absences of team members or be penalised if the team were a no-show. Team captains could now go out of County in selecting members to participate.

The November date will be the 21st rather than the 14th to avoid the clash with the Children in Need evening which some clubs liked to run as a charity session.

The 12th September date clashed with one club's weekend away and it was therefore agreed to move this to the 5th September.

Richard Feetenby also pointed out that Tony Russ had only ever charged a modest fee but that from now on directors would be paid £40 per session and that the entry fees

may have to be raised to absorb this increased cost. 3 directors were currently available.

6. AOB

None

The meeting finished at 11.50am