

SCBA
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held online on Thursday 2nd July 2020

PRESENT:

Trevor Hobson (Chair); Tim Green; Shirley Pritchard; Jeffrey Allerton; Tim Warren; Gail Norman; John Lemmey; Meena Samani; Suleman Akhtar; John Gallagher.

IN ATTENDANCE: June Middleton

APOLOGIES: Thomas Lundquist

	ACTION
<p>Trevor welcomed June to the Meeting. June is taking over the Youth Officer role from Tim W.</p> <p>1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING These were agreed.</p> <p>2. MATTERS ARISING Following the last meeting Phil Harris contacted Trevor to say that he had decided that he did not wish to join the committee. John Gallagher had been appointed as the new Treasurer. Margaret Susan Preston has been appointed as our new Inspector of Accounts, both positions pending approval by the members at the coming AGM. Thomas Lundqvist was thanked for his support as our Treasurer for the last year, and John Manches for his careful scrutiny of our accounts over the last three years. Now that a programme of online events was established, it was agreed that the prize for the most improved NGS over the year which was mentioned in the February meeting could now be actioned.</p> <p>3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Trevor said that we were grateful for the help and support of Caterham Bridge Club in running a Simultaneous Pairs event in support of NHS Charities Together. In addition to the 5 sessions run by Surrey and 5 sessions run by Caterham, 9 sessions were run by 7 other English bridge clubs. Over 1,000 people played during the week, many of them several times. After covering our costs, we were able to contribute £7,744 to the charity. He also congratulated Shirley and Meena, working with Richard Banbury, for developing our new, innovative and experimental online Summer Bridge Programme. Trevor mentioned that the issues which some clubs raised concerning our events clashing with club events seemed no longer to be an issue. The exception was Camberley, who had merged with Yateley as a virtual club, and had chosen Yateley's normal club night to run a teams league. Statistics had shown that the putative decline in numbers at Caterham's Wednesday morning event had not happened. Shirley was asked to see if another night of the week could be found for the Autumn programme.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trevor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shirley</p>

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

John G reported the issues he had been experiencing with trying to change the signatories on the bank account, and suggested that his experience of HSBC was that it was not a helpful or efficient bank to deal with. He suggested a switch to Lloyds or Barclays.

Shirley said that now paying in cash and cheques was not likely to be happening for the foreseeable future, she didn't mind if the lockdown was chosen as the time to change bank accounts. However, she would prefer to change to a bank like the Nationwide rather than any of the Big Four.

Jeffrey said that many members had the Surrey bank account details in their accounts, and changing banks at the start of the season may cause problems with the leagues and other payments. It was agreed that any change would ensure that the HSBC account would run in parallel with the new account for a few months.

5. COMPETITIONS REPORT

Shirley reported a successful start to the summer programme with 32 tables in the inaugural County Pairs event, and 15 tables subsequently in the each of the Wednesday evening events. She had discussed with Nicole Cooke running the normal GP weekend this year online with Swiss Pairs on the Saturday and Swiss Teams on the Sunday. She was also hoping to run a blue pointed weekend congress similar in format to the EBU Autumn congress. This would have a qualifying pairs event on the Saturday, and then an A & B final, and Swiss Pairs open to all on the Sunday. Costings for these events are still being worked out.

John G mentioned that he wanted more casual bridge, and felt that BBO was more like a computer game. It was too fast, and didn't leave enough time for messaging people between rounds.

6. DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Meena submitted a written report.

In addition to developing a regular Surrey schedule, Meena ran a BBO Familiarisation and Taster session, as well as setting up and helping to run the first NGS 7 and below session which was very well received.

A Surrey feed to the EBED Assisted play sessions has also been set up.

3 articles were submitted in the Surrey newsletter - Why Play Online, EBU Virtual Clubs and Online Teaching.

She is currently working with 3 Counties Bridge and other Teachers to start advertising Taster sessions and lesson.

She said she believed that it is important that the next Chairman and committee of SCBA focus on Bridge Development planning and execution as the key activity for the whole of the committee to consider. Post-Covid, the County's role should increase as both the number of clubs and players shrink.

She suggested that a Suggestions / Feedback box was set up on the website to understand what the members like / dislike about the current sessions and adjust the programme accordingly for the Autumn. This was agreed.

John L

She also felt that SCBA would need to take a far more active role for new player recruitment. This would be through advertising campaigns, and a working relationship with U3A groups within the county. She felt that very few club chairmen were looking ahead and planning the recruitment and development of their players. She felt that the County could do more in this area.

Meena's report was only received a short time before the meeting, and several committee members had not read it. It was decided to debate the report more fully at the next meeting.

7. AGM PLANNING

Planning for the online AGM on 19th July was discussed. Trevor would send an email inviting all members to indicate if they wished to attend, and if so, they would receive details of the Zoom link. Trevor will purchase a special edition of Zoom to allow him as Chair of the meeting to mute participants. It was agreed that Trevor would chair the first part of the meeting, and after the elections, Tim W would chair the remainder.

It was agreed to go ahead with the meeting even if the quorum of 30 members was not reached. Jeffrey pointed out that the AGM was unconstitutional anyway, as it said that the members had to be present in person which is not possible in the current circumstances.

8. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Suleman felt that it should not be the role of the Communications officer to send out large emails to specific members of the county. He felt it should be the responsibility of the person who wished the email to be sent. He said that as he hadn't received any comments to the contrary, he would be implementing the following procedure:

Process to send emails to 50+ people:

1. All such emails should be reviewed by at least one other person in the committee (or all the committee, depending on content).
2. If the name of any committee member is used in the email, then they should also be given the chance to review before the message is sent.
3. The writer should send the message to the recipients AND also (bcc) to the committee, so we all have a record of what has been communicated.
4. The email address for responding to the email should be that of the relevant committee member e.g.
competitionsecretary.scba@bridgewebs.com
5. First line of text should say to whom the email is being set (don't mention committee when bcc'd to them).
6. The entire committee must be notified of any intended mass email (more than say 500 people) asap before the broadcast. This is to minimise the number of mass emails we send, and avoid allegations of spamming. We may be able to combine topics in one email.

Trevor

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Trevor mentioned that he felt the lockdown had created the opportunity to retire our trophies. There was no time to debate this suggestion so it was held over to the next meeting.

It was also noted that Suleman is currently working on a refresh of the Association's Strategic Plan and it was agreed the Association would consider holding another Member's Survey in around September.

NEXT MEETING - 19:30 on 10 September 2020