

SCBA
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held online on Wednesday 8th December 2021

PRESENT:

Tim Warren (Chair); Trevor Hobson (President); Shirley Pritchard; Jeffrey Allerton; Gail Norman; John Gallagher; June Middleton (part).

APOLOGIES: Tony Cherrett.

	ACTION
<p>1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING These were agreed.</p>	
<p>2. MATTERS ARISING It was agreed that the event dates which had been on the Calendar, were now more prominently displayed.</p>	
<p>3. COMPETITIONS The committee wanted to organise a Club Pairs Challenge event this season. It was agreed that all events for the rest of this season will be online. Trevor said that it appeared the County had been asleep, but arranging competitions is challenging at present with clubs struggling to get players to return to F2F play, and online bridge not as popular as it was during lockdown. There have been no entries for the Teams of 8, and only one entry for the County Pairs. Another reminder will be sent about the County Pairs after Christmas. It was felt that Realbridge needed to be stronger technically as some players still struggled with connectivity. When using it for League matches it needs people who can set it up, whereas BBO can be set up by the participants. It was agreed that Tim would contact Barry Stoker to ask if he would agree to have his name on our website as the nominated person to assist in setting up Realbridge league matches.</p>	<p>Shirley</p> <p>Tim</p>
<p>4. PLAY AND COACH This had attracted 11 tables, but it was felt some aspects of the event could have been improved, including its length, and the range of abilities of those invited. The cost of the event to Surrey was £717.60.</p>	
<p>5. JUNIOR BRIDGE June joined the meeting and announced that the School's Cup had been booked for 4th February at Wimbledon. They were not charging Surrey for the hire of the hall. £500 had been received from EBED in the past for this event, but with Covid uncertainty this amount was not available this year. It was agreed that £650 should be budgeted for this event. June would ensure John received invoices from the club for the cost of sandwiches, and for the purchase of biscuits.</p>	
<p>6. MATCHES REPORT Jeffrey reported that the Surrey team failed to qualify for the Tollemache final this year. The B Division of the Met Cup was won by a Surrey team. Jeffrey said the Home Counties League was keener to play online rather than F2F.</p>	

7. EBU SHARE MEMBERSHIP

After discussion it was agreed that Tim would take up the "spare" share currently owned by Jeffrey. Trevor would remain as a shareholder.

8. COMMITTEE RESIGNATIONS

Both Sue and John had announced their resignations since the last meeting. The role of the Communications secretary was discussed, and it was felt that other methods of communicating with members apart from the newsletter should be looked at.

If no one comes forward to take up the role, the next newsletter in January will be the last.

The usefulness of the newsletter was questioned – perhaps it is too ambitious in the current climate.

John agreed to write a job spec for the Treasurer – he will not leave the committee until after the end of the financial year next March.

9. LEAGUES POLICY

Following feedback from team captains, it was agreed that Trevor would send the following email to captains, and the changes to the rules would apply from next season.

Tim will draft an article on the new policy for the next newsletter.

Tim

Eligibility to play in these events:

In addition to the requirements imposed by the EBU*, with effect from next season these competitions will only be open to people that meet any one of the following:

- they reside in the county of Surrey;
- they are members of a Surrey club and have Primary Affiliation to Surrey;
- they are members of a Surrey club and live in any county that is contiguous with the county of Surrey.

We are sorry for any of you that would be excluded by this but you could always contact your local county association to prompt them to run similar events.

*EBU membership is required for all of these competitions except for the Novice League and the lowest division in the Surrey League.

The payment of professionals to play:

We had a lot of replies on this topic and the vast majority were shocked and resolutely opposed to the suggestion that anyone should be paid simply to strengthen a team beyond the level they would normally play at. Therefore, with effect from next season we will not allow players to participate if they are being paid to do so by other team members. We realise there is no way we can check this; in the same way we cannot check if a partnership is communicating illegally. We have to leave to the integrity of all concerned to ensure that these things do not happen.

Should you feel that either of these requirements unreasonably exclude anyone then please contact the organiser of the relevant event.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

John circulated the YTD figures showing a deficit of £2k.

He pointed out his concern that representative events totalled c£1.5k [post meeting adjustment] and that income was not covering these expenses despite a surplus on the GP this year.

Although it was too early to set a budget for next year because of the current uncertainty, this should be borne in mind when organising events.

He suggested a note be put on the entry forms for events saying "Any surplus from this event will be spent on representative events" as he felt most players were not aware of this.
John was thanked for his clear reports.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING - 19:30 on Tuesday 22nd February 2022.