

Minutes of committee meeting of Somerset Contract Bridge Association

on the 3rd June 2024

via Zoom

In attendance:

Alan Evans

Richard Feetenby

Colin Simcox

John Cockram

Michael Wigmore

Sheree Pavey

Andrew Ridgers

Annie Holder

Simon Brooke

Apologies Frank Coltman

1. Minutes of last meeting

Two items to note, firstly the teams are online and secondly it was agreed that Woolavington would continue to be used because of its location and storage opportunity.

2. Financial update

Richard F confirmed that there was very little to update from the AGM, except to report that he had received a refund of £239 in respect of the team in the Garden City final.

3. Andrew Robson.

Simon Brooke reported on the progress of holding the Andrew Robson event again in 2025. The date agreed was 12 February 2025 and he was very aware of how cold Crispen Hall would be at that time. He had considered Yeovil as a possible location attracting members from South Somerset or a pub in Langport that had parking and food available. All agreed Street was convenient. The possibility of Woolavington Village Hall was discussed, large enough and catering can be arranged. Richard F asked the committee to consider whether the club could purchase extra heaters if Crispen Hall seemed like a frontrunner.

4. Tournament Programme

An extensive discussion took place on the logistics of running the programme, participating in national events.

Richard F asked that we continue to consider parallel events, mostly experts and non-experts. John C was confident that there was no reason at all why a 9 high event could not be run alongside any event. Andy Ridgers confirmed that as far as he was concerned parallel events didn't pose technical problems. Certainly some events, i.e. Paul Jones, would be technically challenging. There might be an additional burden on directors attempting to run two events simultaneously. A 9 high plus teaching event was arranged for the 21 July. Teaching would take place BEFORE play. John C confirmed that the hall had been booked for all events.

John C then raised the logistics of running the Michael Coda event. Whichever way it was run, there were issues. The event takes place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with different boards. Overall no complaints were made regarding the way it was run and overall it was agreed to stick to the existing format. John C and Annie H agreed to meet and discuss.

### **Directors**

The issue of available directors was discussed and the possibility of paying a qualified director to direct certain tournaments was agreed to be one way forward. Sheena had raised the issue at the AGM and the credibility of a playing and directing director at County events.

John C to email directors to check on availability in relation to the programme.

#### 5. Festival of Bridge

Michael Wigmore was very disappointed with the responses he was getting to all his attempts to galvanise support for the event/s.

Richard F discussed the enthusiasm exhibited in Newton Abbott who had set up matches against neighbouring Exeter.

#### 6. Any other business

John C, Andy R, Alan E and Richard F then discussed the various one-off events and the qualifying criteria and the very real operational difficulties of getting support for such events as the knockout, the Pachabo, Championship teams and the Pairs League. Richard F suggested that an email go out to clubs reminding them of the criteria for entering these specific county competitions .

It was felt that various teachers in the county should be contacted to ascertain if any would be willing to participate in a 9 high and teaching event day.

Bob Warrender had agreed to continue with the county league the first event was due to take place on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Meeting finished at 15.30pm.

*Minutes prepared by Sheree Pavey*