

Minutes of committee meeting of Somerset Contract Bridge Association

on the 21 March 2025

via Zoom

In attendance:

Alan Evans
Frank Coltman
Annie Holder
Richard Feetenby
Colin Simcox
John Cockram
Michael Wigmore
Sheree Pavey

Apologies:-

Andrew Ridgers
Simon Brooke

1. Minutes of last meeting

Alan Evans referred to the last minutes and asked for any matters arising.

No matters arising and approved.

2. Financial update

Richard F presented a summary of income

Andrew Robson event earned £1,452

Interest £1228

County events £130

Total £2810

Outgoings:

Depreciation/Interest £950

Congress £1,550

9 high £185

Mixed pairs £170

Swiss teams £112

AGM £403 (free tea + bridge)

Swiss pairs £160

3. Andrew Robson

Once again a successful visit by Andrew Robson producing a profit of £1,452. Simon Brooke has agreed to organise the event again next year. No date had been negotiated.

4. Michael Coda

Richard F confirmed that £2,100 had so far been paid. Michael Wigmore mentioned that Kingston Seymour club had yet to pay nor had Clevedon.

Richard confirmed that the bulk of the payment would be made to the charity very soon and certainly before the 31st March (year end).

The final of the MC cup would take place on Realbridge on the 25th April, Frank agreed to direct the event. Finalists should be online for 6.45pm ready to start at 7.00pm. Frank made the point that it would be easier if players could express their interest in playing in the event, Alan Evans agreed to make this available on the website together with a list of qualifiers. Annie Holder would email the clubs and explain format.

5. Grant Application

An application had been received from a club in north Somerset seeking assistance to introduce electronic scoring. The club had grown considerably and the applicant had worked hard to keep it going and the committee agreed the club had promise and was the sort of club we would be able to support.

The options for the club to consider are:

- 1) The cost of seven Bridgemates and the wireless router/server in the region of £1200, SCBA would provide half and the club pay the other half.
- 2) SCBA would buy the Bridgemates and router and own them, but loan them to the club. SCBA would then seek £600 from the club payable over three years, after which the club would own them, but SCBA would have a call to use them if needed on a temporary basis.
- 3) SCBA provide the cost of seven tablets and a wireless router/server (in the region of £300).

6. Congress 2025

Frank Coltman reported that once again after booking a particular date in October the Beach Race organisers had changed their date to the same weekend. The Webbington Hotel was quickly considered to be an alternative option. An initial booking was made for the Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th October. The cost of the Webbington (£2,250) was cheaper than the Winter Gardens (£3,000)

There would be the option of running an under 9 event, if there were insufficient bookings then they would be invited to join the green pointed events.

Frank Coltman, Annie Holder and John Cockram arranged to visit the hotel together during the week commencing 24th March.

7. Tournament Programme 2024 to 2025

John had circulated a draft programme based on previous years and was currently checking for clashes with the EBU calendar.

All agreed that given the inability to launch an under 9s programme at Woolavington, SCBA could reach out to various local clubs and request that they host these events, initially Street, Crewkerne, Frome and Kingston Seymour would be considered/approached. A successful round of under 9 events would produce individuals to participate in the EBU's Corwen Cup. These events could take place in July, September, November, December and possibly one in February.

8. AGM 11th May 2025

All committee members agreed to stand for another year except Frank Coltman who wished to stand down, although he was happy to organise the congress next year.

Richard F agreed to direct bridge on the day of the AGM, bridge and tea would be free.

A few names were suggested for the Chair. Sheree agreed to approach one person and will report back with response.

9. Any other business

Minutes prepared by Sheree Pavey

23rd March.