

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BRIDGE FEDERATION HELD ON 16 MARCH 2019

Present James Grant; Philip Feinstein; Sheila Francis; Roz Bernstein; Helen Kruger;

Graham Burrows; Arie Ridderhoff; Ice Peenz

Apologies Jocelyn Ashberg; Peter Ward

The President welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Matters Arising:

This took the form of an update of a To Do list the president sent out in January

1. The Ladies trials had been completed successfully
2. A detailed budget for 2019 has been drawn up and the income and expenditure statement for 2018 has been produced.
3. Heidi Atkinson has attended the TD Course in Turkey and has provided a report to the President. As regards the costs of this exercise there is outstanding monies owed by the ABF and Helen must take this up with them.
4. A proposal has been made to the ABF that other African countries should participate in our BBO Interclub and possibly an Inter Africa BBO Teams event should be held. This will be raised again at the ABF AGM.
5. Training for members of affiliated clubs has been made a priority this year.
6. As regards Bridge Mates it was the view of the committee that subsidizing them for clubs would not incentivize clubs to affiliate.
7. It was agreed that to join Mind Games will not benefit the SABF in any way.
8. An invitation from Australia to join a simultaneous pairs event has met with little interest.

National Congress

Administration

Congress 2019 will be held at the DLI Hall in Durban from the 12th to 19th July 2019. Play will commence at 1.30 on Friday 12 July and end at the same time on Friday 19 July. Sessions will commence at 9.00 with an hour for lunch from 12.30 and a restart at 13.30. There will be catering facilities at the venue.

The tournament committee would consist of Graham Burrows Di Adrain and Roger Wilson with liaison from the SABF in the form of Philip Feinstein and Roz Bernstein.

It was also agreed to keep the costs for pairs and team sessions as close as possible. Graham and Philip to go over last year's costs together with this year's budget to come up with a price for the event.

Entries would be received by Philip Feinstein and James Grant would open online entries as soon as entry fees had been decided.

Heidi Atkinson would be approached to act as senior tournament director and form part of the tournament committee.

The format for inviting people to the various official positions required to run this tournament would be given to Philip who would liaise with Graham in this regard.

A disciplinary committee would be formed nearer the time of the tournament.

Once number of entries is known Graham will let the SABF know what equipment is required and this will be couriered to Durban

Entries for this tournament will close on 21 June 2019.

Publicity

Advertising should begin as soon as possible. Graham to do a "blurb" for Bridgescanners website and Sheila to contact Anna Gudge for international marketing.

Graham would approach Warwick Wealth regarding sponsorship.

It was suggested that the SABF send out an official invitation to other African countries to attend our congress. Helen to provide contact details.

Inter Provincial

Dates

It was noted that there was a small overlap between this event and the start of the Bermuda Bowl. However after some discussion it was agreed to keep to the published dates of the 13th to 15th September 2019.

Participants

All Unions may enter this event and should be encouraged to participate.

Eligibility

A proposal has been received from Mignon Leigh to increase the maximum threshold for the Berkowitz to 1500 total performance index points and this has been agreed to. A letter will be sent out to all unions to this effect.

Trials

Guidelines

James stated that in the interest of transparency all decisions regarding trials are put up on the web. He feels that the Stabell method has run its course and that a sub-committee should be set up to establish new guidelines for trials. A number of possible candidates were discussed.

Regarding eligibility for trails the "resident" debate goes on. The ABF is not adverse to amending their constitution regarding countries belonging to their sports union. As Helen cannot attend the next ABF meeting in Casa Blanca it was suggested that

James goes in her place and puts forward a motion regarding our situation vis a vis non citizens.

Uniforms

Personal Trust will sponsor shirts and blouses for the South African team.

Sponsorship

It was agreed that the SABF would sponsor an amount of R8000 per player. The secretary is to contact the team players and find out who the captain is, players personal details and banking details. An email will be sent to ABF advising them of our entry.

Training Initiatives

Hennie Fick has agreed to go to the Eastern Cape and provide training for members of affiliated clubs. He will be sponsored by the SABF and there will be a nominal fee charged to SABF members. Members of non affiliated clubs may attend but they will pay a lot more.

It was again underlined that the SABF is dedicated to training and is willing to share costs with the Unions.

It was suggested that Heidi liaises with unions regarding making people aware of the basic laws governing bridge and that the laws are explained before sessions are played. ie today it might be the lead out of turn law and next month revokes and so on. James will discuss this with her.

Financials

Philip produced the 2019 budget (attached). He pointed out income from membership fees had been reduced and the income from congress had been reduced by 10%. As regards expenditure the costs of overseas travel would now be halved as we are only sending 2 teams instead of 4.

Tournament Directors

We have too few qualified directors in South Africa. Sid Ismail has been running TD courses in Johannesburg where accreditation has been awarded for attendance and passing the final exam. Graham said KZN would be delighted if similar courses were held in that Province.

The point was made that we must encourage younger directors and an approach would be made to up and coming candidates to find out if we could do more to enthuse them.

We received a commentary on the Laws of Bridge and the secretary will investigate whether this has been passed on to our TDs.

Website/Masterpoint

Once again there was concern about the issuing and mis-issuing of red points. Helen brought the case of people being given other people's SABF numbers. James said he would investigate this.

Correspondence

We have received a mail from the SABC enquiring if we would want a bridge slot on its sports programme. WC and KZN will follow up on this.

We have received a mail from Ron Klinger enquiring if we would be interested in a daily bridge column ... it appears we would not and the secretary will advise him accordingly.

Other

Arie brought up the idea of Sims tournaments either provincial or national .. it was agreed that this would be looked into.

Ice suggested that Inter Club be held online because numbers were dwindling .. this will be brought up at the AGM

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 16.00