

**MINUTES OF THE BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BRIDGE FEDERATION  
HELD ON SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 IN CAPE TOWN**

***PRESENT***

J Grant

J Ashberg

S Francis

R Bernstein

A Sturrock

***APOLOGIES***

None

***ATTENDANCE REGISTER***

Attached

***WELCOME***

The president welcomed those attending the meeting

***GENERAL***

There was no agenda for this meeting as the major points of discussion had been raised and resolved at our recent AGM. This being the case the president suggested that we use this meeting to clarify issues that may be hazy in many people's minds.

The first of these was Congress. Congress was scheduled to be held in Hazyview next year, but in an attempt to launch Congress as an international event it has been agreed instead to hold this tournament in Cape Town. As Cape Town is the natural destination for Congress in 2021 it means that we have 2 years to run this experiment after which we will be far better placed to judge whether this has proved to be a successful undertaking. Further, given that Cape Town would be hosting Congress for the next 2 years, it was also agreed that all other SABF tournaments would be held in other parts of the country during that time.

It was unanimously agreed at the ABF AGM held earlier this year that should the SABF resign from SASCOC it would still be recognized by the ABF as the sole body representing bridge in this country and as such eligible for all tournaments sponsored by the WBF. While we had no intention of leaving SASCOC, this<sup>1</sup> opened the door for us to allow residents, as defined by the WBF, to enter Trials next year as several other federations affiliated to SASCOC do with apparent impunity.

As with Congress, Trials had lost some of its glitter over the years but by encouraging a far larger number of entries we might be able to restore some of its lost charisma.

Bev Hewitt made the point that trials for women should be done away with and that the winners of SAWBA represent South Africa. She said it was difficult for people who work to play SAWBA and also trials. The point was made that people who might win SAWBA might have no interest in representing the country. No resolution was made.

There was some discussion about having trials online. Roz Bernstein said this would not work. Jocelyn Ashberg suggested that trials are shortened and possibly take place over the weekend.

The president pointed out that the stumbling block with all of these suggestions was that at the end of the day we had to maintain the standards set to hold meaningful Trials. This meant screening those players entering for Trials, or at the very least holding qualifying sessions in order to reduce the field, and in addition playing a large number of boards.

There was some disappointment voiced about the 6 board match format for Interclub and it was suggested that 8 board matches are the minimum in future.

Heidi Atkinson said that the scoring at Interclub should be done on bridge mates so that everyone can see what the other teams played in and this could be used as a learning exercise for smaller clubs.

Steve Bunker asserted, and Andre Truter agreed, that the use of BridgeMates for 6-board matches would actually slow down the scoring process as team personals would have to be printed, checked, queried and amended where necessary. It remains to be seen what features (e.g. the ability to see what other teams did on a board) may be possible using BridgeMates and the EBU Teams scoring program.

Steve Bunker made the point that the DCAS grants we receive in Cape Town are conditional on our being affiliated to SASCOC and that the SABF should please consult us before taking any action that could compromise said affiliation. It was noted that the WCBU is the only province which receives government grants.

Kitty Cruise said that it looked like we had 350 players less this year than last year but James pointed out that in 2018 Mt Edgecombe affiliated with around 250 members then promptly left in 2019 so year on year figures were subsequently skewed.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 18.40

## **ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

### ***Western Province***

S Bunker

H Nick

K Cruise

S Kaminer

H Bernstein

A Van Niekerk

A Truter

R Duff

E Zimet

### ***SCBU***

G Bezuienhout

H Aktinson

### ***GBU***

T Crosse

B Hewitt

### ***KZN***

R Wilson