

## Minutes of the AGM of the SABF held in Cape Town on 11 March 2020

### **Welcome**

James welcomed the attendees, and commented on how very well the tournament had been organized.

### **Attendance Register**

The attendance register is attached.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Arie Ridderhof, Philip Feinstein, Hilary Nick and Andrew Cruise.

### **Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and passed. Proposed by Helen Kruger and seconded by Di Adrain.

### **President's Report**

James reported that several decisions had been taken during the last year: the first being the format for trials for international teams. For Bermuda Bowl and Venice cup, there shall be team trials, and for the Mind Sports Games, pairs. He reported that there had been some resistance to the pairs trials, particularly from the women. Commonwealth Games teams would also be pairs trials. Di Adrain suggested that a team should have a 2 year tenure, rather than 1 as at present.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> decision was that in line with the World Bridge Federation and condoned by SASCOC, we would allow Permanent Residents to participate as part of the South African team. They would, however, not be awarded national colours.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> decision was that Congress should be held in Cape Town for 2 consecutive years, to enable us to determine whether we could launch this tournament as an international event. Apparently, there had been a good deal of interest, but Craig Gower pointed out that the timing of this year's event was unfortunately too close to several European tournaments, and that our normal May slot was more desirable. This was noted by the organisers.

### **Financial Report**

The treasurer's report was handed out for perusal. James pointed out that even though membership had dropped we still had more money in the bank than at the beginning of the year. He thanked Phillip for his efforts, and Norman Knight for his as auditor.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

All the current committee members were either mid-term in their tenure or had been re-elected by their union, with the exception of Southern Cape who had elected Annie Allen to replace Peter Ward. James expressed his regret at losing Peter from our committee and praised his outstanding efforts in promoting sponsorship in his region.

### **Next Year's Events**

SAWBA is scheduled to be held in Cape Town, but James is going to consult Michelle Alexander as to whether this should be changed because of Congress being held there 2 years running.

Congress in Cape Town

Interclub in Durban

### **General**

Helen Kruger expressed the dismay of Gauteng players regarding Congress being in Cape Town again in 2021, and pointed out that SABF does not do a great deal for local players, who pay its subs. James pointed out however that Interclub was being held in Gauteng this year along with SAWBA which, although not an SABF event still fell in the ambit of national events. Greg Hingle had written asking that in future the event should be within a calendar week.

Kitty thanked Malcolm and Andrew for their hard work in getting the scoring programme running, and for their input to the BBO presentation.

Heidi pointed out that since the local committee was so well organized, she had almost nothing to do regarding setup.

Malcolm said they were so well organized because they had very regular meetings. He felt there was great merit in having an international director and

pointed out that the BBO presentations were attracting a great deal of interest, with kibitzers increasing daily.

To make 2021 a real success, he feels the venue and dates need to be decided very soon, and that marketing must start immediately.

Regarding the venue, Kitty and Jocelyn will investigate the availability and costs in May, for Kenilworth Race Course, and Century City, which have evinced interest in holding the event.

Aras Apteker lamented the lack of young players. Kitty felt they were working very hard on education, pointing out that they are fortunate enough to have WC Sports Council giving assistance financially. James is discussing with the Gauteng Sports Confederation the possibility of funding for that region.

Malcolm asked if SABF shouldn't be buying the scoring programme used by Waleed, and training people on how to use it. The general view however was that most clubs seem content with their current programmes.

Heidi congratulated the SABF on their online platform, and on the fact that all clubs are now able to do their own masterpointing.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1845.