

Minutes of the AGM of the South African Bridge Federation held in Durban on 16 July 2019

Welcome

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Attendance Register

Attached

Apologies

Steven Bunker

Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous were accepted. Proposed by Tas Nestoridis and seconded by Miggie Leigh

Presidents Report

I wish to begin by thanking the rest of my committee for the hard work they have put in over the past year. Their support in various ventures and initiatives has helped make my first year as president a most enjoyable one.

One of the questions I am often asked, as no doubt my predecessors were and my successors will be, is why should we pay SABF subs? To help answer this question we have endeavoured over the last couple of years to introduce benefits at a grass root level which we hope will differentiate affiliated from non-affiliated clubs throughout the country. Our more recent initiatives have been to be more aggressive in encouraging widespread training courses covering not only bidding and play, but the general rules covering comportment at the table. This will not only raise the standard of bridge at our clubs but will make playing there a more professional and enjoyable experience.

Another area that differentiates us is our use of BBO. I have invited clubs from around Africa to join our local league as they don't have the numbers to run this form of competition locally. I also hope this will be an incentive for us to enter even more teams next year. Whether this proves to be successful remains to be seen. Roz must be congratulated for her initiative in forming this league and for her continued participation in supervising it.

Treasurers Report

The financial statements which were accepted are attached. Proposed by Roz Bernstein and seconded by Peter Ward.

Election of Office Bearers

The current office bearers will remain in office until the next AGM.

Next Year's Events

Inter club will be held in Johannesburg next year.

Inter-provincials will once again be held online.

The whereabouts of congress next year was still to be decided though there was strong support from the floor that it should be held in Cape Town.

Anti -Doping Regulation

The WBF has issued an anti-doping regulation which will be adopted by the ABF. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the SABF should introduce the same regulation, our policy document simply linking to that of the WBF on our website.

General

Congress

There was quite a bit of discussion as to where Congress should be held next. The general consensus was that it should be held more often in Cape Town.

Di Adrain pointed out that this was our flagship event and should attract all our top players.

Alon Apteker agreed and pointed out that we should try to attract overseas players.

Whilst there were some who felt it was too expensive to go to Cape Town the President stated that there could possibly be some sort of subsidy for out of town players.

Juniors

Aras Apteker asked through his father whether junior players should enjoy free membership and table fees? All of those present agreed that in order to encourage more youngsters to play bridge at our clubs this motion should be adopted. It was then agreed that juniors would be defined as 21 and under.

Starting Times

Tas Nestoridis proposed that the daily starting time for Congress should be 10am so that players could go straight to dinner after the last session. It was agreed that this should be adopted at the next Congress on a trial basis.

She went on to point out that the tables where screens were in use should be bigger. It was agreed that the SABF invest in these.

Cell Phones

There was some discussion around the penalties for cell phones ringing. Helen Kruger suggested that the tournament director remind players to turn off their phones at the beginning of each session.

Zero Tolerance

There was also discussion around discipline at the table and the President reiterated that the SABF had a Zero Tolerance policy and a responsibility to encourage all clubs to enforce this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.20