

Minutes of a meeting of the South African Bridge Federation Committee held on Zoom on 12 September 2020

Present:

James Grant (President)
Jocelyn Ashberg (Vice President)
Philip Feinstein (Treasurer)
Kit Gilmour (Secretary)
Annie Allen
Roz Bernstein
Graham Burrows
Helen Kruger
Ice Peenz
Arie Ridderhof
Ann Sturrock

James welcomed everyone

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circularized, were taken as read.

Disciplinary hearing and procedures:

James had ensured that the committee had all received a copy of the overview of the procedures followed when Lobel/Smith were accused of cheating online. He was unhappy with the clauses in our Constitution dealing with disciplinary actions and care had been taken to ensure that this hearing was as fair as possible for the accused. Work had commenced earlier in the year to review this section of our constitution and for those on the committee interested in this aspect of our constitution, the EBU disciplinary procedures made good reading. Various suggestions were made regarding the selection of the disciplinary committee: that someone with a legal background should be on the panel, preferably with Bridge knowledge; that the African Bridge Federation should be approached for a representative. James had requested the BBO Ethics committee to look at the hands under review, but so far had had no response.

He then addressed the matter of the leaked decisions by the ethics committee, pointing out that all matters discussed in committee, especially the disciplinary committee, were in camera. James had approached the chairman of the committee, Bernard Donde, who agreed to deal with this matter.

BBO agreements:

Most unions are running virtual clubs, for which BBO issues licences. It should be clear though, that we will be charged by BBO whenever we use these licences, be it for Pairs or Teams.

Philip reported that BBO has not yet paid the rebate for July, and we still await the statement for August.

The rules for closed tournaments are clearly understood but it was agreed in the meeting that this should only apply to regular Pairs tournaments. Where clubs or unions organize a once off event such as the Oyster festival, these should be open to all players.

Masterpoints:

Steve Bunker has written a programme for clubs which simplified the uploading of masterpoints for tournaments run on BBO. The members of the committee had seen his proposal, and it was agreed to purchase the software, but not to pay a maintenance fee.

Website:

James pointed out that our websites both at the union and SABF level were now viewed as old fashioned and we should consider giving them all a facelift so that they would be more appealing to the younger generation. However the contents remained the same and after some discussion it was agreed that our websites were perfectly adequate for our members, and there was no need to spend money upgrading them.

Interclub Teams:

This will take place online on the 6/7/8 November. Sessions and times shall be decided according to the number of entries. Entry will be free.

Subs for 2021:

These were set at R100 per player. Players from other countries, who play 5 + times in our tournaments, should be liable for SABF subs.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.05, with a vote of thanks to the chair.