Minutes of the 46th AGM of the South African Woman’s Bridge Association (SAWBA) held on Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 5pm at the Bridge Centre, Green Point, Cape Town.

PRESENT

Kitty Cruise and 41 delegates

APOLOGIES

Jenny Gautschi, Sue Botha, Sally Potgieter

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2017 Minutes were read and accepted - proposed by Joyce Hessen and seconded by Trish Crosse.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Kitty Cruise welcomed the participants to a warm and dry Cape Town.

Sincere thanks to Ann Sturrock for the many hours that she spent on the technical preparations for the event, as well as for the SAWBA booklet.

Also sincere appreciation to Shirley Phillips, Michele Alexander and the Committee who were so supportive and helpful.

Jan van Dijken was the Chief Tournament Director, assisted by Neil Hayward. Andre Truter was the scorer for the Pairs event.

Kitty apologised for the change of venue in Cape Town a few weeks before the commencement of the tournament. The Italian Club in Milnerton had been booked, but the expected entries did not materialise, particularly for the teams event. The last minute change saved approximately R30,000 of the expenses for the tournament. Unfortunately, a number of participants had already booked to stay near the Italian Club and there was some inconvenience involved in this inadvertent change. Kitty thanked those who were affected for their forbearance on this issue. Kitty also thanked the SABF for their assistance with travel expenses for those who had booked into Milnerton accommodation.

Joyce Hessen, on behalf of the Wednesday Club, thanked Kitty for her all her hard work as SAWBA Convenor 2018.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report from Di Adrain was presented by Mary Mutch.

Overall, the financials were stronger this year than last year.

The R50 fee for playing in SAWBA was over and above the playing fees to make up for the fact that it was no longer compulsory for all women to pay R20 annually towards this event if they were not participating.

GENERAL

1. Was SAWBA still necessary? Overwhelming support for SAWBA to continue.
2. Discussion about Inter-Provincials: SABF has done away with it for Congress and was it necessary to continue for SAWBA? Part of the problem was the financial aspect of travelling to other provinces and another aspect was that of the B Section not attracting sufficient support. Many ideas and suggestions were discussed at length and it was decided to continue with the Inter-Provincials at SAWBA and to increase the maximum PI for the B Section to 1500 per team, with no limit per player. This will be used next year and will hopefully assist with encouraging teams to participate in the B Section. The A Section and the Bunny Pritchard did not seem to present any problems with participation at this stage.
3. SAWBA next year will take place in Pretoria.
4. The starting time of 10am in CT worked very well, as morning traffic was avoided as well as the late afternoon traffic, and it was decided that this starting time should also be used next year.
5. It was suggested that it would help if the starting and finishing times for the sessions were posted on the SAWBA website as soon as possible after final numbers were received.
6. There was a request for the Inter-Provincial dates and times to be advertised as far in advance as possible because the earlier one booked flights, the better the prices. There would need to be a cut-off date for entries (about 6 – 8 weeks in advance).
7. There was a request for a database for women’s bridge.
8. There was also a request for BridgeMates to be used for the teams scoring and it was decided that this would be implemented in future.

Kitty stated that she was stepping down after having been actively involved with SAWBA for many years, and that Michele Alexander would be taking over.

* Michele said that there needed to be a bigger push to increase numbers for pairs and for teams and that she would work towards this, and that she would make every effort to organise everything timeously to assist with travel arrangements, as was suggested.
* Val Bloom said that there were approximately 10 tables of women who were beginner bridge players who played every Saturday afternoon in Jhb. Val would do her best to encourage them to participate in next year’s SAWBA in Pretoria, and possibly hire a bus for this purpose, and also encourage bridge teachers to involve their learners in this event.
* The following women are responsible for their regions for SAWBA:
* Johannesburg / Central Gauteng: Bev Hewitt and Trish Crosse
* Pretoria / N Gauteng: Desiree Pieters
* Durban / KZN: Vanessa Armstrong
* Cape Town / W Cape: Michelle Alexander
* Port Elizabeth / E Cape: Naomi Solomon
* Knysna / Southern Cape: Heidi Atkinson

There was a great deal of appreciation expressed to Kitty for her many years of hard work for SAWBA and congratulations for the smooth running of SAWBA in CT this year.

There was also sincere appreciation to Ann Sturrock for her technical assistance on an on-going basis.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm.