

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN BRIDGE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER AT ROYAL KENSINGTON GOLF COURSE

The Chairman welcome those present and thanked them for attending.

Attendance Register: James Grant
Jocelyn Ashberg
Sheila Francis
Philip Feinstein
Helen Kruger
Peter Ward
Graham Burrows
Roz Bernstein
Arie Ridderhof

Apologies: Ann Sturrock

Absent: Ice Peenz

SABF Calendar

The SABF calendar has been finalized by Graham Burrows and will be forwarded to the Secretary for circulating to the Unions It was agreed that Interclub next year would be held in Cape Town.

National Congress Feedback

Everyone agreed that the 2018 congress held in Johannesburg was a pleasant well-run event. Although there were only 36 teams and 113 pairs a profit of R20000 was made. The only problem seemed to be the disparity in costs for the pairs and teams events and it was agreed that this would be regularized in future.

The chairman raised the point that there was no disciplinary committee in place at the tournament making it very difficult to arrive at a fair ruling after the event. It was agreed that for future events no appeal would be heard concerning bad behavior unless the TD was called timeously to record the complaint. If requiring the intervention of a disciplinary committee the players involved would then have the opportunity of putting forward their version of what took place though the committee need not give an immediate ruling on the case.

So at future SABF events the names of the disciplinary committee would be published along with instructions that any complaint must first be lodged with the TD.

Interprovincial Feedback

There was positive feedback for the first interprovincial held on BBO. The SABF would like to extend a big thank you to Roz Bernstein and Robert Stephens. The only disappointment was that there was no entry from Southern Cape however Peter Ward said that he would push for an entry for next year.

There was a suggestion put forward for a sub-Saharan mini zonal event to be held on BBO. Helen Kruger would discuss this with the President of the ABF.

Website.

We had received complaints that there was no link from the SABF website to the World Bridge Championships held recently. The Chairman pointed out that it is not the Webmaster's responsibility to determine what appears and does not appear on the website, but rather that of this committee. In the case of a national tournament for example it is for the tournament sub-committee to decide what is published, when it should be published and when it should be removed from the website.

There was a concern that red points were not being allocated timeously. Again, although this was clearly a function carried out by Ann Sturrock, the Chairman emphasized that the tournament administrator had final responsibility in ensuring that these were updated in a reasonable time frame. He would follow this matter up.

The secretary was tasked with confirming that all unions were aware that only fully paid up SABF members were eligible to take part in red point events.

The honours board has not been updated since 2015. Jocelyn Ashberg said that the Webmaster was the most likely person to have access to this information and this again would be followed up by the Chairman.

The Committee has not been updated on the site. The Secretary will organize updated information to be sent to the Webmaster.

Trials

After a long discussion it was decided that the 2019 trials for Open and Women would take place in Johannesburg from 5 to 10 February on a pairs basis if there were 9 or more pairs entered, with the first 3 pairs being selected. If 8 or less pairs entered it would be a team event. Final date for entries will be 15 December 2018

The criteria for entry must be put on the website:

- 1, SA Citizens only – copy of first page of passport to be attached
2. The entry fee amount and the waiver of same for those living 100 kms from Johannesburg
3. Format as agreed
4. All grand masters, previous trialists, those players with a PI over 300 are eligible. Although the SABF will encourage up and coming players to enter.
5. No husband/wife/ significant other of any player may be nominated as team captain.

The Senior Trials will be held from 9 to 14 April with a closing date of 28 February 2019. The venue will be decided once the entries have been received.

There will be no Mixed Team trials.

Teaching Initiatives

The Chairman felt that the SABF was not spending enough money in this area. All the provincial representatives stated that they were aware of the programme to send top players to the provinces to hold clinics and that this was being done.

Various members spoke about the initiatives taking place in their provinces however the Chairman felt we should spend more effort on finding ways and means of bringing beginners into our fold.

Financial

It was agreed that the SABF fees would not be increased in 2019 and would remain at R200.

The Treasurer was requested to draw up a budget for 2019 which could be published before year end and circulated as well as a draft income statement for 2018 before end December 2018.

Tournament Directors

The Chairman pointed out that we only have 2 national directors and were making little progress in identifying and encouraging future candidates to rise to this level

It was suggested that we import a TD from overseas for Congress and Helen Kruger agreed to investigate this. The suggestion was that a course be held after congress which might encourage others to become tournament directors.

SASCOC

Helen Kruger pointed out that the latest constitution of the WBF stated that bona fide residents of a country could represent the country in WBF events. Helen is going to check with the ABF if this is the case and if we need to belong to a sport governing body. It seems that SASCOC require that all players representing South Africa must hold SA passports..

Correspondence

A letter was received from Sid Ismail requesting sponsorship to attend a tournament directors' course in Turkey. Given that Sid had attended a course the previous year and that we were considering the possibility of utilizing an overseas TD for congress who hopefully could hold one or more courses locally the request was turned down.

A letter was received from a group of ladies regarding the format for trials. The Chairman said he would reply now that the Board had arrived at a decision

A request was received from Lotte Sorensen regarding SABF boards to be utilized for the SAWBA event next year. This was agreed.

General

The date for the next meeting has been provisionally set for Saturday 25 May 2019.

There be no further business the meeting adjourned at 16.30