

## **Tournament Committee Meeting Agenda 10 May 2026**

Present: B Donde J Ashberg D Balkin R Bernstein

Apologies Carol Grunder

1. Welcome
2. Congress 2026 report back
  - a. Expenses for Congress 2026 were excessive. An additional daily charge was added for the Saturday when the setup was completed by 12h00. There were unexpected charges for the dealing room. Daily food was supplied for assistants and tournament directors. Tea and Coffee cost the SABF R10 per cup.
  - b. Teams – room for team’s final was too small – will need to play the final in main hall in future
  - c. There was nowhere for players to have ‘brought from home’ lunch
  - d. There was no welcome for the pairs players and they were not given their folders. Needed to buy a full book of tea tickets.
  - e. Mixed pairs – only 42 boards played – times for each session were changed. Need to play a minimum of 48 boards for the mixed pairs in future.
  - f. Pairs: We had 2 sections of 18 pairs and 1 section of 22 pairs. Should have been 2 sections of 20 pairs and 1 section of 18 pairs. More boards would have been played. Will need to play later on the Saturday to allow completion of congress by 16h30 on Sunday. Alternatively, congress could begin on the Saturday afternoon and end Sunday Lunchtime.
  - g. Lack of support by Western Cape players for congress. Reasons for this are unknown
  - h. All players who participated benefited from playing in congress. Overall, the congress was a success and enjoyed by all.
3. Upcoming events
  - a. Interunion online 25-26 July. On Realbridge, not monitored, red point event. Players may belong only to 1 union. They must be members of the union in order to represent that union. This will be the last year for an interunion as with the internet, the unions are no longer valid. Too many players are playing for unions where they are not resident.

- i. Tournament Director – Carol Stanton Fee: R2500 which includes setup, masterpoints, Td duties and posting of results.
  - b. National Mixed teams event 8-10 August Online, red point even on Realbridge. Full round robin will be played.
    - i. Tournament Director Carol Stanton fee R4500
  - c. Zonal Championships online, realbridge but monitored
    - i. Senior Mixed 6-10 September
    - ii. Open Womens 15-19 September
    - iii. Centres Western Cape, The Links
    - iv. Monitors need to be approached. R300 per session will be paid to cover transport costs.
    - v. Room set-up – cameras
- Action Diana** to contact Carol Stanton

#### 4. Congress 2027

- a. Venue – Port Elizabeth. Glynis Dornon will look for a venue. Michelle Alexander has offered to supply a marquee. Roz Bernstein strongly advised against a Marquee in Port Elizabeth because of the winds. April is generally a good month. Easter is on 28-30 March and Passover April 21-29. Therefore, 3-18 April suggested as possible dates for congress. To discuss with PE if the bridge club can accommodate the congress. Diana will write to Glynis to give us some idea of what venues are available and suitable for Congress 27.
- b. Format. Possibility of making the congress shorter was discussed. Can play later on some days. Current format of Teams, Mixed, No Fear and Pairs is supported.

#### 5. Trials

- a. Report back on open and women's trials.
  - i. No tea break between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sessions. Must have a tea break for the mixed trials.
  - ii. Too few pairs to hold an imp pairs. There were only 3 comparisons. Need a minimum of 5 comparisons which means we should have a minimum of 12 pairs entering to hold an imp pairs trial.

- iii. Poor entry to both. The committee recommends that we revert to online trials in the future. Online trials must be monitored.
  - b. Mixed and senior trials
    - i. Neil Hayard TD
    - ii. Grant will go down to help with setup, preparation, posting of results
    - iii. Board dealing Thabo
    - iv. Very poor entry to senior event noted. A minimum of 3 pairs entering is required for us to send a team to seniors.
  - c. Captains and coaches for successful teams – to wait and see which players qualify.
  - d. Practice for teams. The SABF needs to promote practice sessions prior to major events so that our players do not go to tournaments 'cold'. Difficult to make these sessions compulsory as some players go overseas early and are not available for practice.
  - e. Confirmation of rules for dropouts from the teams over the next year. If a player cannot go, the next pair goes. In the open, if one player drops out they must choose a pair from the losing team.
- 6. New events
  - a. Simultaneous pairs – Face-to-Face on a Saturday. SABF will absorb the R16 additional cost of playing a normal event. Suggested date of 20 June or 22 August. Diana will drive the process with Robert Stephens' help. Unions must be encouraged to get all their local clubs to participate in this event. **Action Diana**
  - b. National pro am tournament: Recommend an online event to be held on a Monday evening. Blue masterpoints will be awarded. Recommend using the BBO platform. 22 June identified as a possible date. **Action: Bernard** will discuss with Robert.
  - c. Face-to-face tournaments with invitations to non-affiliated clubs to attend. Overall support for this idea but no implementation plan was discussed.
- 7. Investigate Hermanus red point event – they are not affiliated. **Action Jocelyn**
- 8. General

Meeting ended at 19h00