

Minutes SABF Meeting 11 May 2026

Present: B Donde J Ashberg S Izerel D Balkin G Dornon C Grunder E Marx R Bernstein V Armstrong T Nestoridis G Ellis

Apologies: None

1. Welcome
2. Election of the Vice President: Jocelyn Ashberg was elected unopposed.
3. Subcommittees
 - a. Tournament committee
 - i. Bernard Donde
 - ii. Diana Balkin
 - iii. Carol Grunder
 - iv. Roz Bernstein
 - v. Jocelyn Ashberg
 - vi. Vanessa Armstrong
 - vii. Glynis Dornon
 - b. Constitution
 - i. Eric Marx
 - ii. Bernard Donde
 - iii. Geoff Ellis
 - c. Webpage maintenance and Masterpoints
 - i. Bernard Donde
 - ii. Roz Bernstein
 - d. Fundraising
 - i. Diana Balkin
 - ii. Vanessa Armstrong
 - iii. To co-opt Machel Shapiro – Jocelyn/ Diana to approach her
 - e. Tournament directors
 - i. Bernard Donde
 - ii. Glynis Dornon
 - f. Teaching
 - i. Carol Grunder
 - ii. Geoff Ellis
 - g. Newsletter
 - i. Bernard Donde

- h. Social media
 - i. Nicky Stephens and Grant Ewels to be approached to see what they can offer in this regard **Action Bernard**
- 4. The board agreed to co-opt Tas Nestoridis onto the board
- 5. Tournament committee report
 - a. Report back on open and women's trials
 - i. The committee recommends that a minimum of 12 pairs are required to run an imp pairs. This number will be required for future imp pairs trials. Failure to get a sufficient entry will result in a team's trials being held.
 - b. Format of trials in future: It was noted that there has been a very poor entry to trials. Therefore, in future online monitored trials recommended for future trials. Most players do not want to travel for trials. Restricting trials is not an option. The SABF may reserve the right to deny entry to pairs who have had little or no experience in tournament bridge.
 - c. Interunion. The Tournament committee recommends that the interunion event should be discontinued as players no longer identify themselves as belonging to a particular union. Frequently players have partners in different unions and do not wish to be limited to their union when choosing a partner. The SABF is looking for an event that teams must qualify for and then play to determine the grand winners. Suggested that we should have a 3 section team's event so that players of all strengths may participate. Sections could have similar restrictions as there are for the Medwin and Berkowitz trophy with a third section for new tournament players. It was commented that there are too many pairs events online and most players have not been exposed team's events. This is a contributing factor to our poor performance on the international stage where the main events all have a teams' format. **Action: The Tournament committee**
 - d. National mixed teams event Flyer and post on net. Entry Fee: R2500 per team 8-10 August **Action: Bernard**
 - e. New events
 - i. Simultaneous pairs – **Diana** will organize this for 22 august
 - ii. National pro-am tournament to be organized online on the BBO platform – 22 June **Action: Bernard**

6. General

1. Training for the National teams: suggestion was made that we form squads for up-and-coming players. Another suggestion was for a Cross imping weekly event to be organized for all the players who have qualified. We will invite up and coming players to enter the event.
2. There was a suggestion to offer a subsidy for the national teams in lieu of sending a senior team. It was felt that we need to be consistent when we offer subsidies for players and we therefore cannot offer a subsidy on an ad hoc basis.
3. It was pointed out that online International coaching has been available for women that no-one has taken up. EBL courses for women are available. There are videos available.
4. Suggested coaches for the international players: Leif Stabell, Tim Cope.
5. SABF budget. Eric Marx requests to see the budget for the SABF **Action Sharon**
6. Teaching – Scottish bridge union has a manual to teach beginners. EBU has a manual as well. ACBL also might have a manual. **Action Diana** will investigate. Paul Marston beginner's book is available and offered free of charge to beginners.
7. Constitution: Eric Marx Bernard and Geoff Ellis to organize a meeting to discuss what is required. **Action Bernard**

Next Meeting 29 June 17h00