

Scottish Bridge Union – Eastern District
Minutes of the Committee Meeting of July 14th 2011 at 7.00pm at Carlton BC
(Condensed Version)

Present: Mr. J Paterson, Ms A Perkins, Dr. J Palmer, Mr. A Officer, Mr. A Kirkwood, Ms F Greenwood, Mrs. J Carnegie, Ms N Bain, Mr. J Corry, Mr. D Alkin

The new members of the committee (Mr. J Corry, Mr. D Alkin) were introduced and welcomed by the acting Chairman

Apologies: Mr. M Ash, Mrs. L McGowan, Mr. W Whyte, Mr. A Bouverie

Minutes: The minutes of April 21st 2011 were proposed by Mr. A Officer and seconded by Ms F Greenwood.

Matters arising:

- ECats and scoring for ED Sim Pairs – as Mrs. McGowan is not present, Ms Bain will liaise with her and report to the Committee by email as the next meeting takes place after the ED Sim Pairs
- The East (Craigleith) v West (Gilmore Hill) had to be cancelled on the evening because of adverse weather conditions in the west – it's not known if a re-match is planned
- Competition Guidelines – these have still to be updated by the Secretary

Chairman's report:

Secretary's report: There was nothing substantive to report in either of these

Finance:

Mr. Kirkwood presented a draft budget for next season.

- It makes some assumptions eg. ED Sims being as successful again and the League fee up to £27 from £22
- Pens – we would need to order more – it was felt that the ones we had were quite expensive – Mr. Alkin is going to check on the price of the pens given out at the Kelso Congress
- Consistency of prices for tournaments
- Engraving an issue but have had to buy some new bases. The treasurer intends keeping a separate figure for engraving rather than putting it under each particular competition

It was agreed that:-

- Everyone would check through proposed budget and get back to Mr. Kirkwood if necessary
- We shall discuss pens – or suitable alternative – and stock of these will be controlled by the Treasurer
- Competition fees will be inclusive – see suggested fees below. Prize money should be appropriate to the money collected – approx 25-30% after expenses

- MP books – prices are going up from Sept 1st, but we have sufficient in stock to last till May 2012
- Junior Fund – £233 available for next season + whatever comes in from the 2 raffles. Mr. Ash looked into Lottery funding but nothing done about that – did successfully obtain £300 from the SBU to send 5 juniors to a training weekend in Loughborough at end of August. It is not clear what is happening re. minibridge in outlying areas (several schools involved in Edinburgh). It was suggested we look at where children are learning bridge at home and try to co-ordinate it and also that the internet may be the way forward.

Entry Fees for Tournaments – the Secretary suggested that for the coming season teams events should cost £50/team, 2 session pairs events £25/pair and single session pairs events £15/pair. This was agreed subject to checking on the proposed table money for the Melville and Carlton.

League:

There is definitely 1 new team from the MBA (Melbas) and possibly 1 from a group of new players from the Carlton – if there are 2 extra teams in Div 5 we may have to promote an extra one to Div 4 – this will be left to Dr. Palmer to sort out and report back

A note of interest has been received from a group of experienced players from Stirling BC. This raises 2 points:-

1. Eligibility – they would have to set up as something like Stirling East and pay their SBU fee through this home club which would let them enter a team to the ED League
2. Practicalities – there was discussion of where their home matches would be played (probably an intermediate venue) and which Division they would be allocated to (Division 3 thought to be best). Dr. Palmer will contact the people involved and pass on the committees thoughts on these and find out if they wish to proceed

Cancellation of Matches:- There was much discussion of this perennial problem. The main ideas were –

- have a 2/3 week cooling-off period after the League Secretarys meeting to allow teams to ensure they can raise a team on a particular date – if not an agreed change can be made so long as it occurs within this time period
- the 2 reserves could be available at any time and not just after end of February
- teams to be told that the non-offending side (in the event of a cancellation) should be in touch with suggested dates within 7 days of the cancellation
- the Committee is strongly minded to fine a team(s) for the following season if matches not completed by April 15th

Novice League:- Dr. Palmer and Ms Bain have had a meeting with Jim Herbert who organizes the Harrower Cup at the Carlton (open only to inexperienced players) and received a copy of his pack which looks to be a useful starting point. As this runs in Oct/Nov/Dec, it makes sense to start the Novice League in January. It will need someone to be present to help run it. Will start initially in Edinburgh and then possibly something similar in Fife, Borders etc in subsequent seasons

Recent results

KO Cup: Linlithgow beat Ratten in the final

National Tournaments:

Fairlie Individual – Jake Corry

Harrison Individual – Andrew Symons

Arthur Grandmaster Pairs – Mike Ash & Roy Bennett

Summer Congress Pairs – Derick Peden & Malcolm Copley

Summer Congress Teams – Ying Piper, Nigel Guthrie, George Plant, Peter Moss

ED Tournaments:

Atholl Cup – Jack Paterson, Derek Sanders, David Liggat, Roy Bennett

ED Tournaments: (Forthcoming)

Discussion of arrangements for Watson, Faie, Borders match and ED Sims

Website News:

Mr. Officer reported he will shortly be clearing the website for the new season. The form for the McLaren Cup will be updated to include details of the handicap

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15 with thanks to the Chair

Date of next meeting – Thursday November 17th at 7pm at Carlton BC