

## **SUFFOLK CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the Club Secretaries meeting held 7 March 2007 at 7.15pm at  
Stoke by Nayland Golf Club

**Present: Claude Stokes ( Chairman & Membership Secretary)**  
**Eric Newman (Treasurer)**  
**Pauline Hanson ( Secretary)**  
**Jyl Marsh (Competition Secretary)**  
**Bury St Edmunds: Mike O'Reilly & Norman Shannahan**  
**Clare: Jane Moore & Adele Wayman**  
**Colchester: Graham Beeton , Eric Newman & Jyl Marsh**  
**Frinton: Claude Stokes**  
**Ipswich Hospitals: Joan Mayhew & JohnGarbutt**  
**Ipswich & Kesgrave: John Garbutt**  
**Stowmarket: Maurice Last & Arthur Winchester**  
**Sudbury: Graham Beeton & Eric Newman**  
**Woolpit Friendly: Adam Edmondson**

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Claude Stokes (CS) welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Apologies were received from Framlingham, Deben, Felixstowe, Stratford St Mary and Tally-Ho clubs. The purpose of the meeting was for clubs to put their views to the committee, which could be passed on to the EBU if it was thought necessary.

### **2. Subscriptions 2007/8**

The Suffolk Committee has decided that the annual sub for Suffolk for the coming year will be £4.50 for full members. With the £16.50 sub announced by the EBU this makes membership £21. The EBU has advised that effective from 1st February 2007, the EBU annual fee for clubs will be £20 per annum. In addition, the Suffolk levy remains at 50p per active club member

### **3. Membership update**

The final number of members for the 2006/2007 year :

		Previous Year
Full Members	353	316
Associate Members	10	12
Junior Member	1	0
Bridge For All	82	78

Only 23% of people playing bridge in Suffolk are members of the EBU.

It was felt that the Bridge For All two year course is far too long for keen people, with less than 10% of participants becoming full members of the EBU.

In 2008 all membership details will be held by the EBU on a Database.

#### 4. **Suffolk events**

SCBA would like to see more members playing in Suffolk events. The dates of events have to fit in with the EBU calendar of national events.

Local Swiss Teams - Duplimate boards should be used where possible particularly for the last two rounds of Swiss team events. The boards to be passed on as in a Swiss Pairs event.

Woolpit club commented that their members did not want to play in serious competitions. Members are reluctant to enter county (and national) events due to the attitude of some players at the table. It was pointed out that it was difficult to get teams together to enter the Winter league because of concerns about travel in the winter.

#### 5. **Stoke-by-Nayland (SBN) venue**

The general feeling of the meeting was that SBN is a good venue for Suffolk events, but unfortunately in the 2007/08 season, there are several dates when we cannot be accommodated by them. Alternative accommodation, ideally with adequate tables and bidding boxes, will be required - Kesgrave and Thurston were mentioned. Weekend booking of venues is becoming more difficult. Use of several venues for events can cause confusion and a single venue is ideal, however a suitable alternative to SBN is not available. Arthur Winchester had enquired at the Novotel in Ipswich and they would charge £10 per person for tea and the hire of a room, but parking there is limited.

#### 6. **Felixstowe Congress**

The consensus of the meeting regarding the proposed new format of the 2007 Felixstowe Congress, was that it would attract more entries than in recent years.

Fleur Waters (not present) asked why Felixstowe was the venue for the congress. It was stated that in past years other localities had been tried and had proved less popular than Felixstowe.

#### 7. **Newcomers to duplicate bridge**

It was suggested that a successful means of introducing newcomers into club evenings would be to encourage a group from classes to come together to play a duplicate session, either at a separate time or as a separate section during a club night playing less boards (especially if copies of the hands were available afterwards). Clubs should consider this approach and the SCBA should support this type of venture.

Woolpit club said they have 25 people on the waiting list for their club. Unfortunately there is no-one available to run a second evening.

A new event 'Newcomers Pairs' is to be held in two venues, Bury and Colchester.

Jane Moore requested that Suffolk holds a heat for the National Newcomers Pairs in the next season. It was agreed to add it to the calendar.

## 8. **Information from the county**

Table Talk – The general feeling was that Norman Less does a first rate job as Editor. Several members commented that articles should be short one page items and that long and complicated pieces were not suitable. It would be interesting to include results and news from the clubs and it was also suggested that each club could have a Table Talk correspondent.

Care must be taken to ensure that there is no infringement of copyright when hands are taken from books etc.

Website – It was agreed that the constitution, minutes of meetings and rules for competitions will be put on the website.

## 9. **EBU**

Several members at clubs feel there is no incentive for them to join the EBU. They feel the EBU is more interested in National and International events than what happens in local clubs. The announcing and alerting system was brought in without any consultation with clubs. The venue at Kettering for national events was meant to be cheaper but has proved to be 25% more costly. Another venue in the Midlands is now being considered.

## 10. **Nominations & Motions**

Nominations for the SCBA Committee and Officers, and any motions to be submitted to the AGM are to be sent to Pauline Hanson by April 26.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.