ST FRANCIS BAY BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the committee meeting held on

Thursday 02 July 2015 at the Heritage Centre at 11h30 and continued on Thursday 09 July at 12h00

1. Geoff welcomed all those present. There were apologies from Roger (overseas), Wendy (overseas) and Cookie (flu).
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 April 2015 were confirmed by all present.
3. Matters arising:
   1. The new seating arrangements are working well. Players sit where they choose on a first come first served basis and their playing money is collected at the table.
   2. Slow play – JOHN to refer the request on how to deal with slow play to the TDs at their next meeting.
   3. Judy has spoken to Eugenie regarding the frequency with which the Links is unavailable to us on Fridays and whether or not it would make a difference if we changed to playing at the Links on a Thursday. Eugenie indicated that it would make a significant difference. JUDY to document the details using past records as we need something tangible from which to work. It was noted that changing from a Friday to a Thursday would not be well received by the men as they would have to change their Thursday afternoon session to a Friday morning, to avoid a clash. Nor would it be well received by the J’Bay players who play at their own club on a Thursday.
   4. The TD course by Heidi which had been suggested as a possibility sometime prior to our tournament never materialized as we so involved with the tournament arrangements.
4. Our recent capital expenditure of R19832 was for:
   1. 7sets of 32 boards
   2. 288 decks of cards
   3. 10 cases to hold the boards
5. The new equipment as per item 4 will be stored in the Heritage Centre. GEOFF to investigate the building of cupboards in the kitchen area. It was noted that no monies have been collected for the month of June for the use of the Heritage Centre by the yoga class. JUDY to contact Sharon in this regard.
6. Annual Tournament report:

The amount of positive feed-back from visitors on our Annual Tournament has been overwhelming. We definitely offer a successful “package” to all the participants.

* 1. The Conference Centre at the Links is an excellent **venue** for the Annual Tournament. It was confirmed that **28 tables** fit in comfortably and that we should not try and squeeze in any more.
  2. Roger has suggested (by email) that a **separate cheque account** should be opened to use solely for the management of the tournament entries. The club’s present account is a savings account for which there are no facilities for internet banking. THEONIE will investigate the exact costs that will be incurred.
  3. Geoff reported that
     1. 42 visitors were **accommodated** in members’ homes.
     2. 22 visitors stayed in holiday homes.

N.B. There was **one hiccup** where 3 visitors ignored the email informing them of their accommodation arrangements. They made their own arrangements and unfortunately did not have the courtesy to advise their hosts Liz and Theonie.

* 1. John delivered his **catering** report :
     1. Dealing with Eugenie van Vuuren (The Links) was always pleasant. She communicated very well and responded swiftly to my requests for information and subsequent changes to the menu.
     2. Special dietary needs were accommodated without hesitation even at short notice.
     3. At dinner on the Friday service was slow and this has been acknowledged by Eugenie. We have learnt from this error in judgement (timing).

Service for the other two meals was excellent.

* + 1. Food presented on the Friday was appreciated by the majority of diners, some felt it was pretty average. I think that the problem was in the over complicating of the chicken dish.
    2. Just about everyone was satisfied by the finger lunch offering on Saturday. The food was warm and the variety good. Timing was spot on.
    3. The Saturday dinner received accolades from diners. Excellent!
    4. The wine offerings were good and well-priced.
    5. I was not involved with eats at the tea breaks but I think that they were both plentiful and outstanding.

It was suggested that the Friday evening meal should start at 17h45 and not 18h00 and that a curry or something similar would be more suitable.

* 1. Geoff thanked Theonie for her detailed **financial report**. A “profit” of R7400 has been made but this does not include the expenses of all the boards and cards that were purchased. It was suggested that **R4000 be donated to the local Hospice** and the balance of R3400 will be used to offset the capital expenditure.

Theonie mentioned that Pippa Swart had identified a need for funds by the Home Care for helping elderly residents in sea Vista who are ill and do not qualify for help from Hospice. The committee decided that the R4000 profit from the Tournament will go to Hospice. THEONIE will make arrangements for the money to be made available for the official handover which is to be organized by GEOFF.

* 1. Heidi Atkinson was once again a wonderful **TD**. She is strict but fair and has a good sense of balance so that everyone enjoys themselves and no one feels intimidated by her.
  2. Geoff has written **letters of thanks** to Heidi, Jeff Clause, Arie Ridderhof, and Dennis at The Stationery Butler, Richard at Pam Golding and to all the hosts.
  3. There was nothing discussed under general.
  4. The **check list** for 2016 must be updated by GEOFF.
  5. The question of how to deal with **early bookings for 2016** was discussed at length but not resolved.

1. The club entered the **World Wide Sims** on the 05th June for the first time, at the suggestion of Heidi. Richard (Heidi’s husband and assistant) dealt the boards for us and they were able to deliver them to us when they came to our Tournament the previous week. As this was all organized at the last minute, it was played during a normal Friday morning session and the entry fee of approximately R25 pp, was paid by the club.

Judy organized the entries and made sure there was no half table. Judy set up the movement for 10 tables which involved a lot of switching and reported that it would have been preferable to keep it simple and play a straight Mitchell.

It was felt that participating had been a good experience and that the players’ concentration during the competition had been better than normal! NB. Marion and Penny came first in SA, plus the club had 4 pairs in the top 15 in SA!

It was suggested that next year the 2016 committee should send out an email to members asking who wanted to play and that they should be prepared to pay the entry fee.

1. The TD course by Heidi is on 20-21 July will be held in PA directly after their tournament. Geoff and Eileen are playing in the tournament and have elected to stay for the course at their own expense. It was decided that the cost for anyone else to go just for the course, would be prohibitive. Heidi has offered to hold a course for us in Knysna which is a little closer than PA but accommodation costs will still make it expensive. John suggested that we should get a course going at grass roots level for those members that would be prepared to help with “managing” a Monday bridge session. Eileen and Sue produced a list of “Most Common Errors” a while ago. John suggested that these be covered in a course, offered by Eileen. GEOFF will speak to Eileen in this regard. If she agrees, the COMMITTEE will seek suitable candidates. It was also decided to find someone to help Eileen with managing Friday sessions as Sue is not able to assist at present owing to her ill health.

It was agreed that we should try and get Heidi to offer a TD course to us in 2016, immediately after our Annual Tournament.

1. Judy has booked the weekend of 13-15May for the 2016 Annual Tournament with The Links. Unfortunately Heidi is unable to help us over that weekend. JUDY to investigate alternative dates with the Links. GEOFF will find out from Heidi what dates would suit her. GEOFF will also investigate possible alternative TDs for the weekend of 13-15 May 2016.

Theonie reported that The Chronicle will have a website shortly and suggests that our weekly results be advertised. THEONIE will give JUDY the contact details of Collin Watts who is developing the website. JUDY will send weekly results to Collin and will ask for our club website address to be promoted. Club photos and news, can also published from time to time.

The meeting adjourned at 13h30pm.