ST FRANCIS BAY BRIDGE CLUB

Minutes of the committee meeting held on

Thursday 20 August 2015 at the Heritage Centre at 11h30

1. Geoff welcomed all those present. Cookie sent her apologies as she needed to be in PE with a friend who is very ill.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 02 July and continued on 09 July, were confirmed by all present.
3. Matters arising
   1. Slow play – It was decided that the most successful way of avoiding a hold up caused by slow play is for JOHN to ask all the TDs to announce during each round the time when the last board of the round should be in play.
   2. JUDY to monitor the frequency with which we cannot play at the Links on a Friday. This will be done over a 12 month period.
   3. John reported that there are approximately 20 people interested in attending the Common Errors courses. Judith O’Hara has suggested amendments to the document on common errors that Eileen and Sue had previously drawn up, and the content of the PA system will be useful in the presentation. JOHN and EILEEN will discuss the way forward.
   4. GEOFF will distribute plans for storage cupboards that he will build for the HC and the Links, to hold the new boards. Geoff displayed a special suitcase for holding 28 Bridgemates that we can purchase from Arie Ridderhof for R1000. It was unanimously decided to proceed with the purchase as it ensured that the BMs would be well protected in transit in future.
   5. Theonie reported that having a separate cheque account with FNB for 3 months, to help with the organization of the Annual Tournament, does not make financial sense because of the high transaction charges that will be incurred. ROGER will investigate whether the transaction charges would be any cheaper if the said account was with the STD Bank. The issue with our present 32 day account is that ETF deposits do not always show the reference name on the bank statement. It was decided that any payments done by ETF for future tournaments should be accompanied by a bank confirmation of payment.
   6. ROGER will contact Malcolm Devine with regard to the Hospice donation. GEOFF to liase with Roger and the handover will be organized as soon as possible. GEOFF will contact Yvonne Craig regarding photos and the publicity of the event. An extra R300 has been donated specifically for a Charity and this will be added to the R4000 already demarcated for Hospice so that a total of R4300 will be publicly handed over.
   7. The Annual Tournament checklist has been updated by JUDY and will be distributed to the committee for further editing.
   8. The Annual Tournament 2016 early bookings are still under careful consideration. It is a nice problem to have! GEOFF will distribute a list of recommendations for us to consider further.
   9. The weekends of 13-15 May 2016 and 3-5 June 2016 are booked at the links for possible dates for the 2016 Annual Tournament. JUDY to check these with Heidi and Arie. The weekend in May is preferred but the problem of a TD remains as Heidi is not available.
   10. Theonie is sending the weekly bridge results for publication in the electronic version of The Chronicle.
4. The TD course in PA 20-21 July report back by Geoff is attached. Please see addendum A.
5. Heidi has requested the use of some of our boards in the PE Mini Congress over the last weekend in August. It was agreed that we should charge R1 per board for the hire thereof.

1. JUDY to distribute the 2014 Charity day check list and organizing details to the committee. GEOFF will assign portfolios for the 2015 Charity day which is on Tuesday, 22 September. JUDY to contact Dinks Liebenberg’s daughter, Lynette Paterson regarding their attendance.
2. General
   1. It was pointed out to ROGER that he will be the only committee member present at bridge on Friday 28th August. He will enlist the assistance of Virginia! Di le Roux will take the money whilst Theonie is away.
   2. The following committee members will be away for the dates indicated (inclusive) :

JUDY 26th August – 24th September

THEONIE 28th August – 7th September

JOHN 26th August – 3rd September

GEOFF 28th August – 30th August

WENDY 28th August – 30th August

ROGER 5th September – 12 September

The meeting adjourned at 13h10

**ADDENDUM A**

**REPORT BY GEOFF ELLIS ON THE TD COURSE GIVEN BY HEIDI ATKINSON IN PORT ALFRED 20-21 JULY 2015**

*Eileen and I attended Heidi's TD course on Wed/Thurs in Port Alfred (PA).*

*We also had a chance to chat about other bridge related topics with Arie Ridderhof, Heidi and the other participants.*

*Of interest:*

***Dealing***

*P A apparently have two dealing machines and, I think, 27 suitcases. East London don't have a machine, but they get their cards dealt by pensioners for a fee. The programme Arie uses is called "Dealmaster Pro", and I think both Heidi and East London also use it.*

*If we want computer generated hands, we can download the programme, print the hands and find someone to deal them. Perhaps we start by downloading and having a look at what it can do.*

***Clock***

*Arie kindly downloaded the clock for me onto a memory stick. I have the stick with me but Judy has the description to take it off the internet. It warns you that it needs 7,6GB of memory.*

***TD 's guide***

*Arie has put a guide together for those who run sessions in PA. It has been put together as a PowerPoint document, and they have it laminated in a file to take to the table.*

*He has kindly given us a copy, which Eileen will use as the base for her workshop.*

*It is in plain English and does not quote the detail of any Law.*

*In discussion, it seems that the guide is used by the person available at the time of query. There is no nominated TD per session. Timing and movement appears not to be a problem, and each of the two sections may move independently.*

*I didn't ask if the timer is used in all sessions.*

***T D course***

*Perhaps the problem with any TD course is that there is never enough time and always too much to learn. And then there are so many questions!*

*Heidi's structure, content and presentation were excellent. Practice is needed to reinforce the content, and what we had was good, but we felt we needed double the time. So, for us, it was a pity that we only had one and a half days.*

*The course was mainly handled through introductory discussion, use of flowsheets, examples and practicals.*

*It concentrated on the Laws, but also covered how to handle problems on a practical basis.*

***New players***

*PA is growing, but E L seems to be declining, as does P E. Knysna appears flat. We had a great growth spurt, but have leveled off.*

*There seems to be a combination of factors for success in recruiting new members, including: the happiness of existing members, education, integration and facilities. (This becomes a virtuous circle.)*

*P A offers courses in house. The fee includes temporary membership of the golf club, and learners are encouraged to come and play at the club, rather than at home.*

*At P A, they also try and get more people involved in the running of the club.*

*We seem to have been on a parallel track, but we do need to discuss how we can practically keep getting a steady stream of new players.*