

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GAUTENG BRIDGE UNION held on SATURDAY
MARCH 17th 2018 at THE LINKS

1. ATTENDANCE

James Grant – GBU Chairman and SABF President

Philip Feinstein – GBU Treasurer

Deirdre Ingersent – GBU Secretary and representing Benoni Northerns

Joe Israeli-Zindel – Vice Chair

Stephen Rosenberg – GBU Committee

Helen Kagan – GBU Committee and Helen's Tuesday Club

Jocelyn Morris – Rivonia Club

Peta Feinstein – The Links

Sheila Francis – SABF Secretary

Gill Brown – Northerns Bridge Club

Lily Arkin – Orchards

Sid Ismail – Benoni Bridge Club

Val Bloom – JBC Chairlady

2. APOLOGIES

Tor Meyer

Lorna Speller – Orchards

3. WELCOME

James welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that a quorum had been reached.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

James asked if these Minutes could be taken as read and accepted. This was agreed by the meeting.

Proposer: Gill Brown Secoder: James Grant

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

James started his report by thanking his committee for their hard work during the year, especially Philip who besides the Treasurer's portfolio handles about 70% of the boring behind the scenes work which the GBU does. Also Joe for handling sponsorship so well, Deirdre for secretarial work, Stephen for the Newsletter and Helen for helping wherever needed. Sid, although not a committee member, had done sterling work with training up TD's and successfully running all our red point events.

James said that he would be stepping down from the Chairman's role although continue with the GBU Committee as he was already the SABF President, a new role for him.

The website, an initiative which had been developed under James, had grown apace and the various club administrators were now able to post their own results and do their masterpoints. Ann Sturrock and Patrick Jarvis were responsible for this.

All our events had gone ahead without a hitch and new players had joined the clubs. Lorna Speller was mentioned for her hard work in launching Orchards, The Links starting a Gentle

Section for new players to tournament bridge and Neville Eber was starting group lessons for beginners on a Saturday morning.

James had begun the Friendship Club with Lindsay MacNair as the Trustee of it. Details were out about it on the website. The idea behind it was to help players struggling financially and to encourage people to come back into the clubs. It would be done anonymously. The funds donated would be used to reimburse clubs for players who were not in a position to pay club membership fees and then possibly the SABF fees as well. Word would be spread amongst those players who might be able to donate to this new Friendship Club.

Proposer: Sid Ismail Seconder: Peta Feinstein

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Philip presented a comprehensive financial report which showed there was now R146,304 in the bank compared to R130, 292 at the end of 2016. This meant a slight income for the year of R18,814 compared to a loss of R13,413 in the previous year.

Our income from subscriptions was down on previous years and the number of members had decreased.

The income from our 3 red point events was lower too. The numbers of participants in all were less with the GBU Open teams being particularly poorly supported. Players did not seem keen to travel (probably for financial reasons) and red point events seemed to have lost their appeal.

In the expenditure figure Philip explained that the GBU had continued to acquire their own equipment to avoid borrowing for our events. Accordingly tables, tablecloths and bidding boxes had been purchased. A retirement present for Pierre Du Toit and a TD's course were also in the expenditure figures.

A budget had been prepared for 2018 which showed an anticipated profit of R25,000.

An enhanced website had made it easier for players to enter competitions on line and Philip thanked James for all his help.

He then thanked all the affiliated clubs for their diligence in collecting the GBU fees and the SABF subscriptions. James explained that although players were individual members of the SABF and must pay their own fees each year, it was the clubs themselves who were members of the GBU. The R30 fee for GBU must be absorbed in each club's membership fees. It was reiterated that after 6 times of play at a club a player was then required to pay membership fees (or a higher visitor's fee) and it was necessary for the various affiliated clubs to check that their members had paid their SABF subscription. It was felt very few players actually were negligent in doing this and of course in order to play various events SABF membership was compulsory.

Proposer: James Grant Seconder: Stephen Rosenberg

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2018

James explained that as the new SABF President he would be standing down as the GBU Chairman and Philip was the new SABF Treasurer. Both were happy to continue with the committee though. Tor Meyer had agreed to be the Treasurer and Deirdre was the Committee's choice for Chairman. All other committee members were happy to serve again. With the meeting in agreement, the new 2018 GBU Committee was as follows: -

Chair – Deirdre Ingersent

Treasurer – Tor Meyer

Secretary – James Grant

Vice Chair – Joe Israeli-Zindel

Members – Philip Feinstein, Helen Kagan and Stephen Rosenberg

8. GENERAL

- a) Sheila Francis asked if it was a good idea to timetable a Mini Congress in the same year as the main SABF National Congress was going to be held in Johannesburg. It was felt by the meeting that with the effort required to get a good entry for the GBU Open Teams maybe a GBU Pairs Championship would be better, held over 4 sessions. Sid Ismail suggested IMP Pairs which is a popular format used overseas. It could be 2 sessions of qualifying rounds followed by 2 final rounds. It could have a handicap allied to it as well. The rounds would be Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and all day Sunday. It was decided to discuss this further in committee after the National Congress.
- b) The question of TD courses was raised. There was a need for Learners and a Refresher course for active advanced TD's . Sid said it would be better to hold these after the National Congress.
- c) Gill Brown thanked the GBU committee for their hard work during the year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.20pm.