

## **MINUTES OF A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN CAPE BRIDGE UNION (WCBU)**

**HELD ON SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

Brian and Anita Croucher (Bidding Box); Dee Truter (CTWBC); Harold Bernstein (Grand Slam); Ian Holdsworth and Judy Wulf (Hermanus); Shirley Kaminer (Impala); John Bryant (J&M); Ann Sturrock (Keurboom); Barry Gunton and Len Oberholster (Pinelands); Shirley Karon (Helderberg Somerset West); Janette Schewitz (Tableview); Andre Truter (Trumps); Mark Kenyon, Michele Alexander, Shirley Phillips (WCBU Committee), and Eric Marx

### **MINUTES:**

The WCBU President, Mark Kenyon, welcomed all present and thanked Eric Marx, Brian Galgut and Brian Paxton for all the time and effort they put in order to draft the proposed new constitution.

Eric Marx gave the reasons for amending the constitution:

- To put the control and administration in the hands of players as opposed to clubs.
- Currently players are members of clubs and the clubs are affiliated to WCBU. It was felt that it was desirable that the individual players join the WCBU directly. The new constitution would continue to cater for players to be members of affiliated clubs.
- There are vast numbers of players who are not members of clubs.
- The voting system is impractical and does not take online players into account.
- There are many other aspects of the present constitution that require cleaning up and updating.

Eric Marx continued:

- The process followed was to identify the need for change and this led to the aforementioned sub-committee being formed.
- The proposed constitution tabled today was unanimously approved by the WCBU committee.
- In terms of the SABF constitution the players are paid up members of clubs. The WCBU is a member of SABF in accordance with clause 6 of the SABF constitution. While other clauses in the SABF constitution might need to be changed to reflect the current situation, the proposed revised WCBU constitution does not affect the SABF and, in fact, is positive for them.

The President thanked Eric Marx and opened the meeting to comments and questions:

Ian Holdsworth (Hermanus) stated that Hermanus had 53 fully paid up members. He felt the current voting system unfairly penalised them. He gave examples of the voting from the 2021 AGM as run by Andre Truter and how the voting was skewed.

Harold Bernstein (Grand Slam) spoke on the need for change and thought the new constitution was a good idea.

Ann Sturrock (Keurboom) gave a historical perspective – historically members had nominated their primary club and their attendance for voting purposes were only counted at that club. Now attendances at all the clubs are counted for voting purposes.

The President stated people playing online are not included and therefore the voting procedure required change. A potential problem is that in general players are reluctant to attend meetings. Proxy votes would be accepted.

Andre Truter described how the structure had worked in the past. Namely SABF as the umbrella body with clubs affiliated and players as members of those clubs. Clubs are of a different size and votes were allocated based on the size of the clubs. When the Bridge Centre opened a Bridge Centre fee was introduced; all the players playing at the Bridge Centre paid SABF subs and a Bridge Centre fee. Post Covid there had been many changes like internet games.

Eric Marx said that the resolution should be passed subject to SABF approval.

Michele Alexander raised the issue of the SABF representative and the fact the WCBU committee is not getting any feedback. Eric Marx responded that the new constitution states that the SABF representative must be a member of the WCBU committee.

The president explained that SABF and the other unions would need to know how much support there is for the proposed constitution.

Shirley Kaminer (Impala) suggested that we could not vote for a constitution that in itself is unconstitutional. She suggested that we should vote for a proposal to change the constitution.

Discussion took place on the issue of what players expect from SABF and what SABF provides.

The issue of representation of country members and association members for out-of-town players was also discussed. The current constitution does not make provision for online players and members of non-affiliated clubs.

Ann Sturrock stated that she had been a member of both the SABF and WCBU executive for many years and that SABF do in fact do accept members directly i.e. they are not members of affiliated clubs or of the unions.

Andre Truter raised the issue of honorary life members and the need to be more circumspect in awarding this. Mark pointed out that people are living much longer and that there are numerous members over 90. Eric Marx responded that election of honorary members required a 75% vote in terms of the new constitution.

Shirley Phillips raised the issue of remuneration for “services rendered” by a committee member as stated in the proposal. Eric Marx said this will be corrected.

## **PROPOSAL AND VOTING**

The proposal to approve the new constitution subject to an application to SABF to effect the necessary changes to their constitution was put to the vote. The resolution was passed with 231 votes in favour (77.09%) and 69 against (22.91%)

A motion to delay the appointment of new committee by 90 days was proposed by Harold Bernstein and seconded by Ian Holdsworth. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The remainder of the agenda was held over for the AGM

The president thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to an end.