
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE UCKFIELD CIVIC CENTRE ON SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 2011

Present:

Mr M Pool

Mr E Williams

Miss J Simpson

Mr D Galpin

Mr N Hardy

President

Vice Chairman

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

Tournament Manager

And 34 members. Apologies were received from May Langmaid, Jackie Clinton, Andrew Southwell, Carol Watson, Helen Kent, Tilly Hennings, Peter Bates, Cecily and Harold Linfield and Karen Pryor.

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting and informed members that the Chairman was recovering from major heart surgery and was unable to be present. He would therefore be taking the chair. All present expressed their wish that warmest wishes be sent to the Chairman for her recovery and a card was circulated for those present to send their personal greetings.

1. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 11th April 2010

The minutes were approved nem con as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the Vice Chairman.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

2.1 EBU Shareholders (Item 8). All clubs in Sussex had been asked for their views on the EBU options for selection of shareholders – only 3 responded. Those were in favour of retaining the current system; this is also the view of the Management Committee. This was reported to the EBU. Following this consultation on representation and voting with all counties on whether to move to a one member one vote system the EBU reported that the strong majority were in favour of retaining the current system. The current system will therefore be retained by the EBU.

A report from each shareholders meeting is being made by Peter Bates (a Sussex EBU Shareholder) to the management committee and one was included in the last newsletter; this will continue to be done in future newsletters. Jill Armstrong requested that a copy of the report also be put on the website.

2.2 Timing of County Events (Item 9.1). The request to avoid Mothers' Day had been followed.

3. Vice Chairman's Report

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- 3.1 Sadly recently Sussex has lost a very special member, Matthew Hoskins. He has been an ever-present and well known and popular figure in the county for many years with many successes to his name. He will be sorely missed.
- 3.2 **EBU Officials.** Sussex continues to be well represented within the EBU with the following officials elected this year
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|-----------------------|--|
| Sally Bugden | Chairman |
| Martin Pool | Member of the Law and Ethics Committee |
| Joy Mayall | Member of the Disciplinary Committee |
| Barbara Herold | EBU Club Committee representative for Sussex, Surrey and Kent |
- 3.3 **EBU Dimmie Flemming Award.** Peter Langston has received the Dimmie Fleming award from the EBU. This award is presented for long-term and outstanding service to bridge at club and/or county level.
- 3.4 **P2P Implementation.** The implementation of P2P has been successfully achieved for Sussex – any glitches seem to have been overcome.
- 3.5 **Membership Development.** Our membership has now risen to 3004. Our juniors have continued to progress, played in schools cup qualifier and have again been sponsored by the SCCBA to attend Loughborough. The Vice Chairman thanked Dave and Jill Armstrong for their hard work in supporting the juniors.
- 3.6 **Competitions.** Congratulations were offered to:
- Sussex pair Duncan Curtis and Andrew Morris who won the Premier Life Masters Pairs in the EBU's Ranked Masters Pairs event at Daventry in March.
 - The Horsham team of Mick Carrington, Richard Fedrick, Matthew Hoskins and Andrew Southwell who won the 2009/10 National Inter Club Knockout competition.
 - Andrew Southwell and Matthew Hoskins who came 3rd in The EBU Summer Meeting Swiss Pairs at Brighton
 - Chris Jepson and Andrew Ryder who won the Swiss Pairs at the EBU Autumn Congress.
 - Hazel Beveridge, David Williams, Doug and Jackie Jay of the West Sussex Bridge Club who won the 'B' Flight event in the Surrey Green Pointed Swiss Teams in September.
- 3.7 **Gladys Hakki Award.** The Vice Chairman expressed great pleasure in making the Gladys Hakki Award to Roger Poulter, current chairman Eastbourne Club who receives the award for his long standing support to SCCBA, as member of the Management committee for 30 years, several years running and doing commentaries on Simultaneous pairs, running county competitions continuing to this day as organiser of the Championship teams and is teaching intermediate bridge.
- 3.8 **Charities.** Last year our charity events have supported The Worthing Church Project for the Homeless and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. This January we

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supported Crossroads which provides carers to carers and the Children's Liver Disease Foundation.

- 3.9 West Sussex Bridge Club rebuild.** The Vice Chairman reported that the proposals for the rebuild at West Sussex Bridge Club have reopened. Discussions will be taking place with the club to reconsider the storage area that had previously been sought by the SCCBA. No information is available at present but the Vice Chairman assured members that they would be consulted on this matter.
- 3.10 Chairman's thanks.** The Vice Chairman thanked Martin Pool (President) for his valued advice and support; Ron Buddery (Vice President), May Langmaid (Vice President), the Officers, committee members and organisers of county events and competitions for all their hard work and support in the running of the SCCBA. He particularly thanked Mervyn Wotton for the hours spent on maintaining the master points and the SCCBA website and working so hard in getting the necessary information to ensure the smooth introduction of P2P. This year our Tournament Manager Norman Hardy and two committee members were standing down, Pyers Pennant and Tilly Hennings and he thanked them all for their commitment during their tenure. He also offered grateful thanks to Bryan Stephens as past editor of our newsletter and to Joy Mayall Chairman of the Conduct Committee and its members Liz Hoskins, Mick Carrington, Harold Linfield and Richard Burnett.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 Adoption of the Audited Annual Accounts.** The audited accounts show a loss of £2671. James Bugden (our auditor) gave more details on this highlighting that as a result of the introduction of P2P only 9 months of income could be shown compared with 12 months in previous years. Further there had been expenditure on Bridgemates and the purchase of computers. Fixed assets have now been capitalised and will be depreciated over 3 years. The Honorary Treasurer thanked the auditor for auditing the accounts and foregoing his fee for the benefit of the SCCBA. It was proposed by Nigel Osman and seconded by Roger Poulter that the accounts be adopted. This was approved nem con.
- 4.2 Appointment of Honorary Auditor.** It was unanimously agreed that Mr James Bugden be re-appointed as an independent examiner to audit the County's accounts for a further year.
- 4.3 Subscriptions for the Year 2012-2013.** The Honorary Treasurer proposed an increase in county P2P from 5p to a maximum of 7p for the year 2012-2013; the final amount to be dependent on a forthcoming strategic review of expenditure. Considerable discussion ensued with some members in favour of no increase ahead of expenditure and others considered that an increase should be budgeted to cover expenditure. It was pointed out that even with the increase in P2P recommended the county subs were still less than 50% of pre P2P. Liz Hoskins seconded the proposal. This was carried with the proposal supported by 32 votes for and 2 against.

5. Election of Officers

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The following officers were elected unopposed:

5.1	Chairman	Mrs J Clinton
5.2	Vice-Chairman	Mr E Williams
5.3	Honorary Secretary	Ms J Simpson
5.4	Honorary Treasurer	Mr D Galpin
5.5	Honorary Membership Secretary	Mr J Williams
5.6	Tournament Manager	Mr G Stanford

6. Election of a Maximum of Fourteen Committee Members

A minimum of eight and a maximum of fourteen members are allowed by the constitution on the Management Committee. The following 14 members were elected to the Management Committee unopposed:

Mr D Armstrong, Mr P Bates, Mrs V Chandler, Mr D Ellis, Mrs A Galpin, Mrs H Kent, Mr Y Lebrech, Mr R Lowe, Mrs J Mayall, Mr A Southwell, Mrs C Watson, Mr R Wheeler, Mr R Whiting and Mr M Wotton.

7. EBU Shareholders. The Management Committee nominated the current shareholders – The Chairman, The Hon Secretary and committee member Mr P Bates to continue as EBU Shareholders representing Sussex. David Armstrong queried the nomination of all three by the Management Committee and suggested that an earlier agreement had been made that one could be nominated at the AGM. However no record of this could be produced at the meeting and members agreed that the Management Committee nominations should stand pending the examination of past minutes.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 EBU Charitable Status. John Williams informed members that the EBU has been accepted for charitable status.

8.2 Sussex League Division 1/2 Promotion/Relegation. Malcolm Pryor pointed out that the regulations for promotion and relegation between divisions 1 and 2 of the Sussex League were inconsistent with those for other divisions and wished to have recorded that there was unrest on this. Three options for removing the anomaly were discussed:

1. 2 up 2 down for all divisions.
2. 1 up 1 down for all divisions.
3. playoffs between the top two teams of one division and the bottom two of the next higher division.

On a proposal by Malcolm Pryor seconded by Piers Pennant, a straw poll was taken on the proposal that “the regulations for promotion and relegation should be made consistent across all divisions”. The voting was 27 in favour and 7 against. The Vice Chairman undertook to take this forward on behalf of the AGM.

8.3 Terms of Competition. David Cross asked that the review of the Rules of Competition should also look at the minimum number of tables needed to participate in a competition.

Signed.....
Martin Pool (President)

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Date.....15 April 2012.....