

## FINAL

# SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA took place at Adur Indoor Bowling Club, Southwick Recreation Ground, Old Barn Way, Southwick, BN42 4NT on Friday 11 October 2013 starting at 7 pm

### Present:

Mrs J Mayall (JM)	Chairman
Mr D Galpin (DG)	Hon Treasurer
Mr G Stanford (GS)	Vice Chairman and Tournament Manager
Mrs H Beveridge (HB)	Membership Secretary
Mr D Wheeler (DW)	Hon Secretary

And other elected members: Mr D Armstrong (DA), Mr P Bates (PB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr N Hardy (NH), Miss J Simpson (JS), Mrs C Watson (CW), Mr M Wotton (MW) and Mr M Wright (MWr).

Mr G Wolfarth (GW) attended as the Association's pro bono legal adviser following the Chairman's invitation. Mrs J Armstrong (JA) also attended as Chairman of the Conduct Committee and delegate for Old Barn Way BC.

## AGENDA

### 0. Opening Remarks

JM opened the meeting by welcoming MC Members and thanking those who had attended the EGM. She recognised that there were good reasons behind the absence of other MC members. She was conscious of the length of the agenda including important items such as the education strategy and the possibility of storage space at Warden Park School and she indicated that she would seek to 'push things along' where necessary.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr B Campbell-Kearsey, Ms K Kennedy, Mr J Mitchell, Mr M Pool, Mr A Southwell, and Mr E Williams.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013

#### 2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content to agree the minutes as drafted subject to the correction of the keying errors identified by DG in para 2.2.1.

#### 2.2 Matters Arising

##### 1. Item 2.2.1 Review Of Constitution and EGM

- DW rehearsed events since the last MC meeting, particularly the outcomes from the EGM held on 15 September. The resolution to adopt the new constitution had been passed by the required two thirds majority. PB had pointed out that the current draft of the minutes of the EGM did not contain a record of the wording of the resolution. DW agreed to amend para 3.4 to rectify this before publication on the web.

#### Action – DW

- MW asked when exactly the new constitution would come into force, how membership T&C would be approved and who would be producing the application form and related job description for MC Members.
- On the question of the introduction of the new constitution GW indicated that the exact timing might be a moot point. DW observed that the resolution passed had made clear that the new constitution would come into force at the AGM 2014 and he confirmed that he would be planning the elections at that meeting on the basis of the new constitution.
- MW continued that in trying to find the implementation date of the new constitution, he hadn't been able to find the resolution itself. DW confirmed that the resolution had been issued to clubs with a request that they alert all members and had been issued in hard copy to all attendees at the EGM.
- Regarding Membership T&C, which were referenced in the new constitution, DW confirmed that these would be put to the MC for endorsement in January and to the 2014 AGM for formal approval.
- The 'Elections' section of the new constitution suggested the need for the adoption of an application form for MC Members together with a generic role description. MW indicated that that he felt very strongly that the content of the first drafts of these forms which had seen some time ago was completely unacceptable to him. After discussion the MC agreed to create a small working group of DW, MW, JS, and GW to develop the new documents, processes and procedures necessary to implement the new constitution. This work would include research regarding the potential value of insurance for MC Members in relation to personal liability, the Officers' potential role as Trustees of any property owned by the Association in future and the role of the

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Independent Examiner (IE) alongside the MC. The group would report back at the January 2014 MC meeting.

**Action – DW, MW, JS, GW**

- DW reported that following the EGM, David Ellis had offered further 'tidying' changes to the approved draft constitution. Pyers Pennant had volunteered to consider these and advise on any that should be adopted to ensure the clarity of the final document before wider publication in advance of the 2014 AGM. DW would check on the outcome of this work in due course.

**Action – DW**

### **2. Item 2.2.2 Extension of Director Training to Club Directors**

In EW's absence, DW reported that the county TD event had not taken place as planned on 22 September 2013. Accordingly, the further directors training days (for club directors) had not yet been planned. This action would therefore be carried forward.

**Action – EW**

### **3. Item 2.2.4 County P2P rate 2014/15**

DG indicated that he would deal with this under item 4 below.

### **4. Item 5.2 Succession Planning for Selectors' Committee**

DG indicated that he would deal with this under item 5 below.

### **5. Item 6.1 Storage at AIBC**

DA reported that his further negotiations had not produced any change in the price quoted. He recommended that the option be dropped and the MC agreed.

### **6. Item 20.1 Metropolitan Cup Organiser**

DW reported that he had informed the other counties of the SCCBA decision and consideration was now being given to the need for another county to take on the role.

Middlesex had shown some interest, including asking for financial details of past events, but they had indicated that they would be willing to organise only if no other county was willing. In discussions in the margins of the EBU AGM the Chairman had established that Surrey might also be interested. DW would continue to monitor developments.

**Action - DW**

## **3. Chairman's Report**

Conscious of the pressure on the agenda, JM confined her report to the following:

- She and GS had attended the funeral of Marie Gritt which had been well attended by the Sussex bridge community.
- She and other shareholders had attended the recent EBU AGM and she thanked PB for his report which would be considered under item 8 below.
- She thanked DW for the planning and implementation of the EGM which had achieved its objectives.
- She thanked those taking the *Bridge in Schools* project forward. Much had been done and relationships had been established with six schools with a seventh likely in the future.
- She thanked JS for the organisation of the recent Kremer Dersch event and she congratulated the county team of GS, CW, AG and DW who had come first.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

**4.1** DG reported the latest balances as £6929 (current account) and £22882 (deposit account). The total represented a significant decrease compared with the figures reported in July following payments in respect of the Loughborough Juniors event (£1960), the newsletter (£2870) and the Kremer Dersch (£310).

**4.2** In conjunction with the IE he had reviewed the financial forecast for 2014 and based on current information he would recommend the retention of the current P2P rate of 7p for 2014/15. However, there were a number of uncertainties and he agreed to review further in order to make a firm recommendation to the January 2014 MC meeting. He was conscious that if a reduction to 6p could be justified this would counterbalance the increase in the EBU rate which had been approved at the EBU AGM but he agreed with NH that the Association should not plan to make a loss in any financial year.

**Action - DG**

## **5. Selectors' Report**

**5.1** The county teams had played well at the Metropolitan Cup and although the 'A' team had not repeated their success of 2012, the 'B' and one of the 'C' teams had won their events and the second 'C' team had finished runners up. The team for the Tollemache Cup had been selected as Fedrick/Carrington, Jepson/Clifton, Mitchell/Clinch, Keeping/Read and Urban/Watts. Southwell and Lancaster were not available.

**5.2** DG reported that the results of succession planning for his departure from the Selection Committee were:

- Julian Mitchell had agreed to take over as Chair: and,
- Roger Poulter had agreed to join the Committee to restore its full complement.

DG proposed these appointments and NH seconded and both were carried unanimously.

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## 6. Tournament Committee Report

### 6.1 GS reported:

- The Autumn Congress, held at AIBC, had been reasonably successful with numbers remaining stable and venue acceptance scores being enhanced.
- The Metropolitan Cup venue (East Grinstead) had been distinctly less successful. Other events had choked the car park and there had been many complaints about the condition of the toilets.
- Currently there were 13 tables for the upcoming Midweek Swiss Pairs and he invited MC Members to encourage further entries.

## 7. Secretary's Report

DW commented on the relatively low level of entry to the Kremer Dersch – only 10 clubs had entered from a total of 29. He wondered whether the location had deterred some clubs, particularly those in the far west of the county. The MC agreed that JS should consider alternating the location if that would increase attendance.

**Action - JS**

## 8. EBU Matters

### 8.1 EBU AGM

PB had circulated his report and he invited questions. DA expressed concern that the increase in the EBU P2P rate for 2014/15 had not been the subject of consultations with MC Members. PB explained that there had been consultation between the Sussex shareholders but, as the papers for the EBU AGM had not been issued until mid September, wider consultation had not been possible. In the event, the P2P increase of 1p had been approved almost unanimously and opposition from Sussex would not have altered that outcome. The increase was actually below the rate of inflation.

### 8.2 Dimmie Fleming Awards

DW reported that the county's two nominees, Peter Bates and Roger Poulter, had both been successful and they had opted to receive their awards at the EBU AGM. GW expressed his great satisfaction at the awards which he felt were well deserved.

## 9. Membership Secretary's Report

HB reported that the county's membership total was 3002 as of 11 October. She added that she now had an e-mail database of 1631 addresses, well over 50% of the current total number of members, and she had recently used this to issue entry forms. Since the creation of the database (from 11 databases received from clubs), she had received just 154 'unsubscribes'. The remainder represented a powerful additional channel for communications with members.

## 10. Communications Committee's Report

BC-K had not submitted a report.

## 11. Press Officer's Report

There was nothing to report.

## 12. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

MW reported that:

- He had completed his annual update of the master points document on the web site.
- He had designed an on-line entry form which was being tested. JM asked him to reissue it to MC Members to broaden the scope of the testing. The New Year Swiss Teams was to be a pilot event for on-line entries but DG indicated that there was now insufficient time to implement that safely. The MC agreed that on-line entries would now be offered for the Spring Congress subject to EW's agreement and preparations would be reviewed at the January 2014 meeting.

**Action - MW**

## 13. Conduct Committee Report

JA reported that there were no current issues under consideration.

## 14. Education Report

### 14.1 Overall Strategy

DW had circulated a paper which sought to present the overall position on education activities. Approvals were sought for a *Bridge in Schools* budget to allow repayment of teachers' travel and other costs and for reimbursement of EBUTA fees for two trainee teachers. Both were approved unanimously.

### 14.2 Bridge in Schools

DW's paper had summarised the current position based on a report from Linda Souter, the secretary of the project.

### 14.3 Teaching Web Site

BC-K would be asked to report further on this at the January 2014 meeting.

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Action – BC-K

### 14.4 Seminars for Improvers

BC-K would be asked to report further on this at the January 2014 meeting.

Action - BC-K

### 14.5 Loughborough Juniors Event

DA reported that this had gone very well with 15 children attending. It was distinctly possible that the minibus capacity would be exceeded next year particularly if the *Bridge in Schools* project produced more candidates. The MC invited him to consider options to allow an increase in attendance.

Action - DA

### 15. Charities

JS had nothing to report.

### 16. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

MWr had nothing to report.

### 17. Dates of Next Meetings

DW indicated that the next meeting would be on 16 January 2014 (at Patcham).

Action – DW

### 18. Any Other Business

#### 18.1 Storage at Warden Park School

DW had circulated a brief paper and HB added that the WPS/WSBC project had been resurrected following the possible availability of sufficient funding to the School. The MC agreed to set up a working group of DW, GS, MWr, and GW to explore the issues arising from the possibility of SCCBA acquiring its own storage space as part of the project. The results of this work, including an assessment of value for money in comparison with other options would be brought to the January 2014 meeting.

Action DW, GS, MWr, GW

#### 18.2 SCCBA as a Charity

GW indicated that there were significant potential advantages in the Association becoming a charity although he accepted that there would be considerable work involved in such a change. He volunteered to write a paper on the topic to allow the MC to consider the possibility further.

Action – GW

#### 18.3 Further Changes to the Constitution

GW indicated that he had some concerns about the new constitution which he believed the MC should consider, possibly with a view to putting change(s) formally to the next AGM. The MC agreed that he should prepare a paper on those possible amendments for consideration at the January 2014 meeting

Action - GW

The meeting closed at 9.40pm