
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

**A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA took place at Patcham
Community Centre on Friday 13 January 2012 starting at 7 pm**

Present:

Mr M Pool	President
Mrs J Mayall	Deputy Vice-Chairman
Mr D Galpin	Hon Treasurer
Mr D Wheeler	Hon Secretary
Mr G Stanford	Tournament Manager

Mr P Bates, Mr D Ellis, Mrs A Galpin, Mr R Lowe, Mr Y Lebrech, Miss J Simpson and Mrs C Watson

Opening Remarks

JM reported that Jackie Clinton had suffered further illness, first with pneumonia and then with the norovirus. MC members asked that their best wishes be conveyed to her for a full recovery as soon as possible. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and in line with the protocol agreed previously, JM proposed that she take the chair and members agreed.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Jackie Clinton, Eddie Williams, Helen Kent, Andrew Southwell, John Williams, Mervyn Wotton, and Dave Armstrong.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 13th October 2011

2.1 Accuracy

2.1.1 The following amendments were proposed by MP and agreed:

- Para 2.2 item 17.2 – insert the cross reference “(see 6.2)” at the end of the second sentence.
- Para 6.2, first bullet – insert “specified” before “competitions” and, second bullet – amend paragraph reference to “2(3)” and delete the words “and confirmed” in the first sentence.

Subject to these changes the Deputy Vice-Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

Post Meeting Note

In response to a query from MW, GS has since confirmed that the change to the Competition Rules implied by the second bullet above has been approved as has the proposal made after the October 2011 MC Meeting that future changes to those rules would normally be presented to and approved by the MC. MW would be asked to update the web site accordingly.

2.1.2 Following an enquiry from PB about the timing of the issue of the agenda, including notification of the change of date for this meeting, DW reiterated the apology he had already given to a number of MC members for his failure of communication after the last meeting whereby the issue of the agenda/draft minutes did not actually reach members until 9 January.

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2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Item 2.2.3 & 2.2.4 Membership Survey

(Including dual membership/club affiliation fees and open v closed events)

JM reported on the preparations for the Membership Survey which would include consultations about dual membership fees and open v closed events. [The MC had agreed at its October 2011 meeting that club affiliation fees would continue.] A working group had been created to undertake the necessary work and this had been very effective. JM was very grateful to the Survey Group of Jackie Clinton, Andrew Southwell, Dave Armstrong and Gerry Stanford for their contributions. JM also expressed particular thanks to Mervyn Wotton, who had created the survey document, and to Yves Lebrech, who had made arrangements for publication. The paper version would be issued with the next newsletter in February. Completion of the survey would be encouraged through the use of a prize draw. A prize of free entry to a pairs or teams event at an SCCBA Congress would be given to the winner and partner. Other preparations for the newsletter were also in hand including the Entry Forms for the events to be advertised. It was noted that on-line completion would make analysis of the results easier and DW agreed to ask MW to add a request for on-line completion to the heading of the paper version. He also agreed to email Club Contacts asking them to publicise the value of on-line completion.

Action - DW

2.2.2 Item 17.5 License Arrangements

MW had reported by email that the outstanding issue concerned the possible 'tick-box' system which EW and DA had been asked to investigate. DW would carry this item forward.

Action - DW

2.2.3 Item 8.3 EBU AGM

MP pointed out that Sally Bugden had been re-elected as Chairman of the EBU. PB observed that he had understood that she had not reached the end of her term of office (and therefore had not been subject to re-election) but MP advised that terms of office applied to EBU Committee members but EBU Board Members were subject to re-election each year. In the circumstances the MC wished their congratulations to SB to be recorded in addition those already conveyed to MP.

Post meeting note

Further enquiries by MP revealed that SB was not actually re-elected in 2011, having this year and next to serve before she completes the term of five years for which she was originally elected.

Other matters arising items were taken as indicated below.

3. Chairman's Report

JC had drafted a farewell message for the Feb newsletter. PB observed that some had interpreted the draft message as though she was stepping down. This was not the case. Her departure related simply to her reaching the end of the term (5 years) allowed by the Constitution and it was known that she was keen to continue to serve on the MC in some capacity. JM agreed to ask JC whether she wished to make this clearer in her message.

Action - JM

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4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 DG reported balances of £5680 (current account) and £22690 (deposit account) as at 31 December. The total (£28370) was £3480 more than the total at the end of 2010 but depreciation would reduce this by £2000. He was therefore expecting that the accounts for 2011 to show a final small surplus of £1000-£1500. Whilst he believed that the 2p increase in the P2P charge approved in principle at the 2011 AGM should be implemented in full, the small surplus in that year meant that there would be no need to consider raising the entry fee for county events from £2.50 to £2.75 or £3 as had been proposed by GS to maintain their viability. RL enquired why the Association was raising its P2P charge when it had more than £20,000 in its reserves. DG explained that the reserves were there to deal with capital expenditure. DW observed that his recall of the Auditor's advice in the financial review conducted in 2011 was that County events should be self financing leaving other expenditure to be covered by the P2P charge. In light of RL's concerns, a formal vote was taken in respect of the full 2p increase and this was carried by 11 votes to 1. RL requested that his vote against be specifically recorded in the minutes. A second vote was taken to authorise DG to seek AGM approval in principle for an increase in the P2P charge of up to 1p in 2013 whilst indicating that there were grounds for optimism that that increase would not need to be implemented in that year. This was carried by 10 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

4.2 GS reported that, in order to cover increased costs, the Officers had agreed that (a) the entry for the green point pairs should be raised to £22.50p, (b) for the coming season, Competition Organisers may add a small charge to the table money for the semi-final and finals of County competitions (to balance the books of those competitions), and (c) Organisers of other one day events should charge £7 per session (before refreshments) eg the Ladies Pairs' Championship.

5. Selectors' Report (Item 5)

5.1 DG reported a reasonably successful Tollemache performance last year with the Sussex team finishing 3rd. The team had beaten one and drawn with the other team which finished above them. Because of illness, just four pairs participated with a Non-Playing Captain and subsequent consultations with the players had indicated a strong preference for this format to be used again in 2012.

5.2 DG reported on the Selection Committee (SC) consideration of ideas for membership rotation and the use of an impartial member. On the former the SC had concluded that, in the absence of a surfeit of suitably qualified members willing to serve on this Committee, it would be difficult to do more on rotation than that occasioned by 'natural wastage'. The use of an impartial member is already possible with the arrangements whereby the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman could attend meetings. He indicated that the current holders of those posts had not been able to attend many meetings in the last year and he suggested that future holders be encouraged to attend as a matter of routine. If both were unable to attend a particular meeting, they could nominate a suitable other member of the MC to attend on that occasion. MP explained that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were "ex officio" members of all County Committees and established practice meant that whilst they were entitled to participate in SC business, they did not vote on matters of actual selections. The current SC had 4 members and he suggested that the addition of a fifth permanent member might solve the problem of perception better. It was noted that Chairmen of County Committees were expected to consult the MC Chairman over

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changes in their membership, and, as there would be a new MC Chairman elected at the AGM, further consideration of this issue should be deferred until the first MC meeting after that to take account of the new Chairman's views. DW would add it to the agenda for the May MC meeting.

Action – DW

5.3 MP referred to the note of the Selectors' meeting on 9 December 2011, specifically the record of difficulties noted by Selectors and others about the arrangements for the Metropolitan Cup 2011. These related to the sufficiency of the scoring resources, the ability to publish Butler scoring within a few days, and the number of teams allowed. Strengthening scoring resources could be justified if a more realistic entry fee was charged. GS explained that arrangements were led by EW and he had all the contact information to enable discussions with the other Counties about improvements. DW undertook to speak to EW early next month at the planned meeting about organiser appointments.

Action - DW

6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 Directors' required skills – progress (Item 6.1)

GS reported that he planned action in February which would contribute to the on-going work to raise County Director skill levels.

6.2 Update of SCCBA Competition Rules & Calendar Corrections (Item 6.2)

DW reported completion of the further corrections required. Notices had been sent to Club contacts with a request to publicise locally.

6.3 Ardingly (Item 6.3)

GS reported on further discussions with Ardingly about our events for 2012 and the longer term plans of the Venue. New caterers had been appointed and they would have to be 'educated' in due course regarding SCCBA needs. The Green Pointed Swiss Teams (22 July 2012) had been relocated (again) to the East Grinstead Sports Club and notification of this further change would be included in the revised calendar being published in the February newsletter.

6.4 Henfield Candles (Item 6.5)

GS reported that further discussions with PB about this event had taken place on 10 January. There remained doubts about the advantages of the County taking on another event similar to the New Year Swiss Teams when the latter was expected to make a loss in 2012. Henfield would retain ownership for 2012 and the event would be held on Sunday, 10 June, a week later than advertised to avoid a clash with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. GS was commended for agreeing to organise the event without charge as a contribution to the containment of costs. A flyer was being produced by PB for inclusion with the February newsletter.

Action - PB

6.5 Tournament Manager's Report

6.5.1 GS reported that new arrangements would be introduced for the Chairman's Cup (to be held every two years) and the Elisabeth North (to become a one day event) because of falling numbers. For the Elisabeth North, Clubs would be encouraged to hold local heats to identify up to two teams to participate in the one day event.

6.5.2 AG reported that the TC had also decided to trial new arrangements for the Invitation Pairs in 2012 following the consultation with current players. The main

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conclusions to emerge were that a significant majority preferred team scoring and a very small majority did not favour the introduction of two divisions. A compromise suggestion involving a combination of the current format (for the early sessions) and a change to two divisions based on that early performance received support at TC. This arrangement would be trialled in 2012 and reviewed thereafter. MP observed that there may be difficulties in ensuring equality in the scoring of the second phase and AG agreed to explore this further with colleagues outside the meeting.

Action - AG

6.5.3 Novice Swiss Teams

PB reported that he was trying to generate sufficient interest to hold this event again in 2012.

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 Gladys Hakki

JM asked JS to withdraw for this item and reported that only one nomination had been received for this trophy – by John Williams nominating Julia Simpson. The MC endorsed this nomination unanimously. JS was invited to return and informed of her award by acclamation. The formal presentation of the trophy will take place at the AGM in April.

Action – DW

7.2 Services to Members & Clubs

In consultation with colleagues, DW had produced a statement of County services which has been shared with Barbara Herold (Chair EBU RCC for our region).

7.3 Preparations for AGM

DW reported that work was in hand to prepare for the AGM (15 April) including ensuring Management Committee continuity. Drafts of the agenda, MC nomination form and last meeting minutes will be circulated in the near future. A notice reminding members about the AGM would be included within the next newsletter

Action - DW

7.4 Calendar and Clubs – Request for info.

Preparation of the annual Calendar is dependent on input from Clubs. The information request for the 2012/13 Calendar will issue shortly.

Action -

DW

8. EBU Matters

8.1 Regional Club Committee (Item 8.1)

DW reported that two-way communications arrangements had been established with Barbara Herold and mutual agreement to consult in advance in the event of any contentious issues.

8.2 Bridge Development & Education (Item 8.2)

In the absence of EW and DA, this item would need to be carried forward. The action was to report on their consideration of the EBU Report “County Bridge Education Research Project”.

Action – EW/DA

8.3 One day green pointed events 2013 (Item 8.4)

GS reported that EBU concerns about these events had been resolved.

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9. Membership Secretary's Report (Item 9)

JW had reported (at the Officers' meeting) that monthly membership totals are now regularly over 3000 and he had contacted the EBU (Sally Bugden) as to the precise criteria under which Sussex may justify a fourth EBU Shareholder. SB had replied enclosing a copy of the Articles of Association. The key criterion was the number of members at 31 March 2012. If, as it had been in several months in 2011, the total number of members was over 3000 at that point, the County would qualify for a fourth EBU Shareholder. This test would be applied by the EBU on or before 15 August to determine the number of shareholders for each County association for the year beginning 1 September 2012.

10. Newsletter Editor's Report (Item 10)

10.1 YL reported on the near complete preparations for the issue of the February newsletter. The target date for the summer 2012 issue (including the 2012/13 Calendar) would be 15 June. The target date for final copy was five weeks before that date.

10.2 In the absence of EW and HK the matter arising relating to the review of possible sponsors was carried forward to the May MC Meeting.

Action – EW/HK/RL

11. Communication Officer's Report

CW indicated that there was nothing to report.

12. Master Point Secretary's Report

MW had reported by email that he had nothing specific to report.

13. Conduct Committee Report (Items 13.1 & 13.2)

13.1 Mixed Pairs Complaint

JC had written to Ms Stevens following the last MC meeting and JM checked with JC on 12 January as to whether there had been any further correspondence from Ms Stevens. There had not. JM had therefore expected to confirm final resolution of the case at this meeting. However, Ms Stevens had written again on 13 January leaving no time for prior consideration. JM would discuss this further letter with JC as soon as possible.

13.2 Preparations for the changes to the Constitution necessary to bring it into line with the EBU model in the area of Conduct and Discipline were in hand. A resolution for AGM approval would need to be published at least 21 days before the meeting. JM would provide DW with a draft in due course.

Action – JM/DW

14. Education Report

DA had emailed DW with a request for approval of a budget for the coming year of £2000. The MC was not prepared to sanction this budget without:

- (1) a more detailed statement of the justification for the budget requested,
- and,
- (2) a more detailed costing identifying the main elements of the
- requirements.

On receipt of that information, the Officers were empowered to consider and if appropriate, approve DA's needs without further reference to the MC.

Action DA/DW

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15. Charities

JS reported that the events were going ahead during the following week. She invited MC members to consider and advise her of possible candidate Charities for future years.

16. Date(s) of next MC meeting(s)

The next MC meeting was agreed to be at 7pm on 3 May at Patcham. Officers also agreed that their next meeting would be at 7pm on 27 April at 11, Brook Lane, Lindfield. [*Subsequently, the Hon. Sec. reported a clash on these dates and MC Members have agreed changes to 10 May for the MC and 20 April for the Officers.*]

17. Any Other Business

17.1 GS reported that Piers Pennant was stepping down from his role as event organiser and would need to be replaced.

17.2 CW expressed concern at the lack of entries for the New Year Swiss Teams. The event would make a loss in 2012. MC members were invited to offer ideas for increasing the entry in future years.

Action – MC members

17.3 DW reported LMBA's request for publicity for its GP events next March. MW has provided background briefing on previous practice (we cooperate if reciprocal publicity is provided for our events) but our previous experience (with Kent) suggested that the reciprocity can be only lukewarm. The MC agreed that we should respond positively to the LMBA request provided they were willing to reciprocate regarding our events. DW would advise MW accordingly.

Action DW/MW

The meeting closed at 9.55pm