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# SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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**A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA was held at Patcham  
Community Centre on Thursday 13 October 2011 starting at 7 pm**

**Present:**

Mr M Pool	President
Mrs J Clinton	Chairman
Mr E Williams	Vice-Chairman
Mr D Galpin	Hon Treasurer
Mr J Williams	Membership Secretary

Mr D Armstrong, Mr P Bates, Mr D Ellis, Mrs A Galpin, Mrs H Kent, Mr R Lowe, Mr Y Lebrec, Mrs J Mayall, Miss J Simpson, Mr A Southwell, Mrs C Watson and Mr M Wotton.

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Dick Wheeler and Gerry Stanford. JS had kindly agreed to act as Hon. Secretary for this meeting

## **2. Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

### **2.1 Accuracy**

Subject to the following small changes

- Paras 6.1 and 6.2 Geoff to read Jeff
- Para 17.5 first line delete “separate licensing arrangements” and insert “level of permitted agreements”

the minutes were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

### **2.2 Matters Arising**

#### **Item 2.2.3 Club Affiliation & Dual Membership Fees**

The income of club affiliation fees had been reviewed by the officers who concluded that this income was required to maintain the service to membership currently. The current constitution supports dual membership. A review of the constitution by the Conduct Committee is underway and JM reported that their proposals for revision would be available for the January Management Committee meeting. Before making any final proposals for change to fees it was agreed that views of the membership should be sought. YL offered to help with the technical formatting for the survey; MW will provide the link from the website to the questionnaire. The committee agreed that the survey should be in the February Newsletter and be sent to club secretaries with an accompanying paper outlining the pros and cons of the fees. JM will produce a list of questions by early December for endorsement by the MC at the January meeting and will explain the debate. The Chairman encouraged committee members to think about questions as this was a good opportunity to get real responses from the membership. Replies from the questionnaire will be sought by early March to enable any change required to be put to the AGM in April.

**Action: JM/YL/MW**

## **FINAL**

### **Item 2.2.4 Open v Closed Events**

It was agreed that this subject would also be included in the survey at 2.2.3 above. A small group chaired by JM and with AS/DA/MW/JC was set up to put together the questions for the survey and to circulate them to the Management Committee by 1 Dec; an explanation of the proposals should be put into the next newsletter.

**Action: JM/DA/MW/AS/JC**

### **Item 17.2 Web Site Update**

The web site had been updated. It was agreed all changes to the rules required on the website must be agreed by the Management Committee (see 6.2 below).

### **Item 17.4 Private Web Forum**

There was no further discussion on this item.

### **Item 17.5 (License Arrangements) Level of Permitted Agreements for BB/Venture Pairs**

After considerable discussion it was agreed that these events should be run at Level 2 and that Tournament Directors should be given discretion to act on the day on any individual requests about this but should not give in to experienced players seeking alternatives. EW will inform Directors. The website will be changed to reflect this decision and will refer readers to the EBU website for further information on level 2.

**Action: EW/MW**

DA suggested that the tick card system used in the USA should be investigated. He and EW agreed to review this system and forward a score card example to JC for consideration.

**Action: DA/EW**

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

The Chairman thanked all the committee for working so hard on her behalf during her absence.

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

The Hon Treasurer reported the current overall financial balances. The bank current account stood at £9430 and the saver account at £22636.

The autumn congress showed a profit of £700 and a letter of thanks for all the work done by Peter Langston in making the event so successful will be sent by JC.

There were some items of expenditure likely in the next 2 months but he anticipated no major profit or loss at End of Year.

The switch to a higher interest account was in progress.

## **FINAL**

The mandate for signatures on the accounts had been completed and the Hon Treasurer was now authorised to sign up to £1000.

### **5. Selectors' Report (including Item 5.2)**

DG reported that selections for the Tollemache had been made and published on the website and that the Sussex C1 team had won their section in the Metropolitan Cup and will play in the Inter League finals at Solihull.

The committee questioned the position of members of the Selection Committee who were potential county team players and suggested this might make selection difficult. The committee agreed that the membership of the selection committee should be an item on the next agenda to consider rotation of members and the nomination of an impartial member.

**Action: JC/DG**

### **6. Tournament Committee Report**

#### **6.1 Directors' required skills**

EW reported that there were still an inadequate number of directors who will use Bridgemates and that he is going to set up a full day course for all county directors. He will run one at the Spring Congress and the other on a day to be advised.

**Action: EW**

The list of county directors published in the calendar will be reviewed on completion of the training.

**Action: EW**

#### **6.2 Update of SCCBA Competition Rules & Calendar Corrections**

The proposed changes to the SCCBA Competition Rules were discussed and with the following amendments were agreed:

- Para 2(2) should not be deleted but should read "Competitors must be members of the SCCBA except when playing in the heats of specified competitions."
- Para 2(3) should read "Entries should be received by the Club Secretary in the case of club heats or by the Competition Organiser where the competition is held centrally at least seven days in advance of the advertised date or as specified by the Competition Organiser; late entries will be accommodated if at all possible. Entries by telephone will normally be acceptable unless otherwise stated."

It was further agreed that a section be added to the rules stating the authority for amendment of the rules.

*Post meeting note:*

*MW has proposed the following addition to the Competition Rules*

#### ***"13. Amendment of the Competition Rules***

*Amendments to the Competition Rules must be approved by the SCCBA Management Committee. However, should a need be identified to implement a change before the next Management Committee meeting, the Tournament Manager may authorise such a change. This change will then be subject to approval at the next Management Committee meeting."*

## **FINAL**

The calendar corrections had been sent to club secretaries. However there were some further changes needed and the Secretary was asked to re send the amended corrections as soon as possible.

**Action: DW**

### **6.3 Ardingly**

The meeting with the Marketing Director at Ardingly has not yet taken place.

**Action: GS**

### **6.4 ToR for delegated powers**

After some discussion it was agreed that the Tournament Manager should be given discretionary powers to run the competitions.

### **6.5 Henfield Candles**

Consideration of this request is outstanding.

**Action: GS**

## **7. Secretary's Report**

The Kremer Dersch event was held last Sunday at Eastbourne and the trophy was retained by The Avenue. A short presentation "What Your County Does For You" had been given by Gerry Stanford. The earlier start time had not proved popular and the committee recommended that the next event be retimed to begin at 1300.

**Action: DW/JS**

## **8. EBU Matters**

### **8.1 Regional Club Committee**

The EBU Regional Club Committee terms of reference and structure were noted together with the EBU Regional Club Committee Bulletins for August 2011 and September 2011 sent by Barbara Herold, the Sussex representative. In her next report the Management Committee asked that the contacts that she has made with individual clubs be reported to enable proper channels to be established between the county, clubs and the regional committee.

**Action: DW**

### **8.2 Bridge Development & Education**

The report of the EBU Education Working Group entitled "County Bridge Education Research Project" was noted with its recommendation that County Learning Coordinators were required. DA agreed to consider the report together with EW and report back on their findings to the Management Committee.

**Action: DA/EW**

It was noted that no reference or record of the data that had been provided by DA and JC to Suzanne Gill last August could be found.

### **8.3 AGM**

A report of the AGM circulated to the committee was noted and it was agreed that this should be put onto the website for general information to members. The committee congratulated Martin Pool on his re-election to the Laws & Ethics Committee.

## **FINAL**

JS drew the committee's attention to the item on the role of shareholders which stated "County responses to the consultation on the role of shareholders were inconclusive and the EBU Board have decided not to attempt to prescribe shareholders non-statutory role at national level. Counties are free to define the role locally as they see fit. It is important that shareholders communicate effectively with their county committees"

### **8.4 One day green pointed events 2013 – EBU query**

This matter was still under discussion with the EBU.

**Action: GS**

### **9. Membership Secretary's Report**

JW reported that at 1 Oct 2011 there were 3001 members and he would be seeking confirmation of this number from the EBU as 3000 triggered the appointment of an extra shareholder.

**Action: JW/DW**

### **10. Newsletter Editor's Report**

YL reported that he with AS had been looking at alternative formats for the newsletter and the calendar in order to reduce costs, make error correction easier and attract more advertisers. DE suggested that the back of entry forms could also be used for advertisements. The committee felt that members views should be sought and JM agreed to include this in her survey questions (see item 2.2). AS/YL are looking for sponsors to cover the cost of the newsletter and YL will produce a sample rate card.

**Action: YL**

Members of the committee were asked to seek sponsors and the following will look for local area advertisers:

- RL West Sussex (Bognor area)
- HK Mid Sussex (Crawley area)
- EW East Sussex

**Action: RL/HK/EW**

### **11. Communication Officer's Report**

CW outlined the difficulty in collating the EBU magazine report which is limited to 280 words and is required 2 months in advance and stated that it was not therefore possible to publish many results of county competitions.

MW asked that he be kept informed of any news and would ensure that it was carried on the website.

### **12. Master Point Secretary's Report**

MW reported that the list of Master Point scales on the website had been updated with all changes to date.

### **13. Conduct Committee Report**

#### **13.1 Mixed Pairs Complaint**

JM reported that the conduct committee had met and considered the complaint raised by Sheridan Stevens about the selection of players for the Mixed Pairs final. The Chairman will be writing to the complainant shortly with their findings. The following recommendations were made by the Conduct Committee to improve the smooth running of all county competitions:

- Contact details for all participants in the event should be held by the organiser

## **FINAL**

- Eligibility and qualification criteria were disproportionate and should be reviewed
- A mix of events should be discouraged
- The complaints procedure should be advertised on the website and in the calendar
- The willingness of participants to play in the final should be obtained on completion of the heats.

The committee noted the recommendations and JC will follow up the actions required.

**Action: JC**

### **13.2 Human Rights Legislation**

Work is in hand by the Conduct Committee to propose changes to the county complaints procedure to meet Human Rights legislation.

**Action: JM**

### **13.3 Conduct Committee article in the Newsletter**

It was agreed to postpone this article until the changes to the constitution were agreed.

## **14. Education Report**

DA informed the committee that there was a report of the children's results this year. He was finding it difficult to recruit new children to the programme. However, he was pleased to report that Steven Kennedy (age15) had done well in competitions and had recently obtained a very high mark on the club directors' course.

## **15. Charities (including Item 15)**

JS reported that in response to her letter to club secretaries asking for suggestions of charities to be supported the following had been proposed by members:

- Impact – action today to prevent disability tomorrow (proposed by Evelyn Ransom) [www.impact.org.uk](http://www.impact.org.uk)
- Age Concern Brighton (proposed by Cathy Glendenning) [www.ageconcernbrighton-hove.org.uk](http://www.ageconcernbrighton-hove.org.uk)
- Riding for the Disabled, Cuckfield (proposed by Hazel Beveridge) [www.courtmeadow-rda.org.uk](http://www.courtmeadow-rda.org.uk)

As Riding for the Disabled had already been supported (2003-4) by SCCBA, she proposed that Impact and Age Concern Brighton be adopted as the charities to be supported by the SCCBA for 2011-12. The committee agreed.

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

An initial discussion indicated a preference from some MC members for the next meeting to be held on 12 January 2012.

### *Post meeting Note*

*Further consultation amongst the Officers after the meeting resulted in the Chairman deciding that the next management committee meeting will be held on Friday 13 January 2012 commencing at 1900 at Patcham Community Centre.*

## **17. Any Other Business**

- **Gladys Hakki nominations**

JS reminded the Committee that the nomination forms for the Gladys Hakki Award would be sent out to clubs shortly.

**FINAL**

**The meeting closed at 2215**