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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 the Worthing  
Bridge Club on Sunday 15 May 2011 starting at 10.45**

**Present:**

Mr E Williams	Vice-Chairman (in the chair)
Miss J Simpson	Hon Secretary
Mr D Galpin	Hon Treasurer
Mr G Stanford	Tournament Manager

Mr D Armstrong, Mr P Bates, Mr J Bugden (for items 1-4 only), Mrs V Chandler, Mr D Ellis, Mrs H Kent, Mr Y Lebrech, Mr R Lowe, Mrs J Mayall, Mr P Pennant, Mrs C Watson, Mr R J Wheeler and Mr M Wotton.

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting and reminded the committee that due to the ill health of Jackie Clinton he was acting as Chairman. The committee noted with satisfaction current reports of Jackie's progress and asked that their very best wishes for a continued recovery be passed to her.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mrs J Clinton, Mrs A Galpin, Mr M Pool and Mr J Williams.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2011**

**2.1 Accuracy**

Subject to a small change to paragraph 11.2, where the second line should read "..... response to non-standard uploads and at present...." the minutes were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

**2.2.1 Registration and Voting (item 2.2.1)**

(a) The Vice-Chairman reported that Barbara Herold from East Sussex BC had accepted the nomination to stand as Sussex representative on the Regional Clubs committee subject to SCCBA Management Committee (MC) ratification. The committee noted this with approval. Barbara had been invited to attend MC meetings in future as a non-voting member.

(b) Sussex currently has three voting EBU shareholders (the Chairman, the Hon. Sec. and Peter Bates). This number may rise to four if County membership remains at its current level (above 3000) at least until April 2012.

**2.2.2 Surrey/Sussex Match (item 2.2.3)**

Discussion with Surrey remained uncompleted. The Committee asked GS to seek further discussions with the Surrey rep as required to resolve the matter.

**Action: GS**

**2.2.3 Update of County Directors List (item 2.2.5)**

The Vice-Chairman reported that he was still finalising the list. He expected to complete matters shortly.

**Action: EW**

Some other matters arising would be taken under sections 7 and 15 below.

**3. Chairman's Report**

**3.1** Referring back to the reports of the continuing progress in the Chairman's recovery, EW confirmed that he would continue to act as Chairman until that recovery was complete. He

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reported that Joy Mayall had agreed to act as Vice-Chairman during that period to provide him with assistance and support. The Committee noted this with approval.

**3.2** EW welcomed David Ellis, Yves Lebrec, Joy Mayall and Dick Wheeler to the Committee and thanked James Bugden for attending in order to contribute to the previous agenda item 9 (Strategic Review of Income and Expenditure), which had now been brought forward to be taken under item 4.

**3.3** EW also thanked retiring committee members Norman Hardy, Tilly Hennings, Pyers Pennant and Bob Whiting for their past service.

**3.4** EW also noted with regret that Valerie Chandler was shortly to move outside the County and had therefore tendered her resignation. VC was presented with a small gift and card as a token of the MC's appreciation for her 12 years of service and support to the SCCBA.

**3.5** Finally, EW confirmed the Hon. Secretary's resignation and that Dick Wheeler had agreed to take on that role as from 15 May 2011. DW would take the minutes for this meeting. The Committee noted this appointment with approval.

### **4. Part 1 - Treasurer's Report**

**4.1** The Hon Treasurer reported the current overall financial balances. The bank current account stood at £6110 and the saver account at £22433. This showed a reduction compared with the same point in 2010 which was almost entirely attributable to the purchase of the new Bridgmate systems. Competition revenues were up on 2010 with the New Year Swiss Teams showing a profit of £211 and the Spring Congress a profit of £457. P2P receipts were moving towards the expected level of around £500 per month. The main outstanding liabilities were the two payments due to be made to the chosen Charities totalling £800.

**4.2** DG also reported on the following points of interest:

- The current rate of payment for the production of duplimated boards for special events (the two County congresses, one day green pointed events and the New Year Swiss Teams) is 10p per board, all of the charges going to the producer. Whilst this is to remain for SCCBA events, in future, DG proposed that the charge should be 15p per board for Club events in Sussex (with 5p going to the Association) and 20p for events outside (10p to the Association). The current rate charged by the EBU is 20p and the changes would generate some useful additional revenue for the County to cover wear and tear to boards and Duplimate machines.
- The costs of the County's Tollemache Cup entry had reached unacceptable levels (£1500 for the last entry) and the committee discussed options for savings. It was agreed that in future each of those selected for this competition would be reimbursed for their entry fee, one night's accommodation and £10 for food and travel costs.
- Patcham BC wished to replace a number of the SCCBA board crates. The MC agreed to this in principle subject to checks on prices and any health and safety issues before proceeding.
- Upcoming EBU changes suggested the need for the County to reconsider current arrangements for Club Affiliation and Dual Membership fees. The MC agreed that both of these should cease to be applied from 1 April 2012.

**Action: DG**

**4.3** DA questioned whether the County should continue to pay for Scorebridge support. GS agreed that the TC would review this matter at its next meeting.

**Action: GS**

### **Part 2 – Strategic Review of Income and Expenditure**

**4.4** The Vice-Chairman reported that the requirements of this review had been discussed at the last Officers' meeting and DW had agreed to produce some draft terms of reference. These had been used to advance thinking on the subject, and further discussions between EW, DG and the Association's Auditor (James Bugden) had resulted in some emerging proposals.

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JB was invited to speak to those proposals. He reported that he had analysed Association income and expenditure over the last six years and believed that SCCBA had two primary objectives – first to promote the game of bridge in Sussex and, second, to provide opportunities for members to play bridge competitively. This seemed to suggest that the County's P2P income should be used primarily to cover the administration involved in achieving the first objective and that the competitions, congresses, etc should be self-financing, including the recovery of equipment depreciation. He offered to produce outline budgets on this basis for 2011/12 and 2012/13. The MC was pleased to accept this offer.

**Action: JB**

### **5. Selectors' Report**

**5.1** DG reported that candidates for the Metropolitan and Tollemache Cups had been considered at a recent meeting. E-mail communications were in train to establish availability and final selections would be made in due course.

**Action: DG**

**5.2** The Selection Committee was one short of complement and Chris Jepson had been invited to join. She had accepted that invitation. The MC noted this with approval.

### **6. County Appointments and Competition Organisers**

An updated list of appointments was circulated to MC members and this was approved (see attachment to minutes). The MC noted also that JS had agreed to take on VC's responsibility for Charities for the remainder of 2011/12.

### **7. Tournament Committee Report**

#### **7.1 Directors' Required Skills (matter arising item 2.2.5)**

The Tournament Manager noted the need for all County Directors to be proficient in the scoring technologies now used. The Chief Tournament Director (EW) had also held a seminar for County Directors to bring them up to speed. The MC noted that the need for all to be up-to-date was a continuing requirement.

**Action: GS/EW**

#### **7.2 Metropolitan Cup (matter arising item 2.2.7)**

EW has continued to organise this event and, given the period of time over which Sussex had taken that responsibility, discussions had been held with the Middlesex Association about the possibility of the responsibility being taken by it for 2012 onwards. Subsequent discussion established that there were now differing views around the MC table on this issue and the Tournament Committee was asked to reconsider the matter and make recommendations.

**Action: GS**

#### **7.3 Update of SCCBA Competition Rules (matter arising item 8.1)**

GS presented proposals designed to encourage greater participation in County events. Essentially, in future, mixed heats (within which there would need to be at least three participating pairs/individuals) would be allowed at Clubs. These arrangements would apply for one year as a trial. EW also reported the need to update the competition rules in the County Calendar regarding County of allegiance for entry to those events restricted to County members. The MC noted both sets of changes with approval subject to resolution of two points of detail raised by MW. First, he questioned the validity of the decision to award MPs for mixed heats on the Club scale, and, secondly, he reiterated his concern about the legality of opening up County events to non-Sussex players. GS and EW undertook to confirm the position on these points before proceeding further.

**Action: GS/EW**

#### **7.4 League Division 1/2 Promotion (matter arising 8.2)**

The league Organiser (DG) had considered the matter further and had decided that, in order to protect the strength of Division 1, it was necessary to retain the current arrangements for promotion/relegation (one up, one down between Division 1 and Division 2 and two up, two down for the others). He proposed accordingly and the MC agreed.

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### **7.5 EBU Licensed Events (matter arising 8.3)**

This item was remitted as circumstances had changed and further consideration was not necessary.

### **7.6 Tournament Manager's Report**

Concerns had been expressed about the catering at the recent Ardingly event. Action was in hand to resolve matters.

**Action: GS**

PB reported that that the Novice Swiss Teams event would be cancelled for 2011 as there was only one team entered.

## **8. Secretary's Report**

### **8.1 AGM Actions – EBU Shareholders election**

JS had searched MC records over the last ten years and could find no evidence of a prior agreement about election of an EBU shareholder at the AGM. The EBU had instituted a consultation exercise about EBU shareholders in 2009 and all Sussex Clubs had been asked to contribute. Only three responded and all of those wished to retain the present arrangements for EBU shareholders in Sussex. The County's current quota of three shareholders was filled by the Chairman (for which the Vice-Chairman currently had proxy), the Hon Secretary and one other nomination from the MC (currently Peter Bates).

### **8.2 Calendar and Clubs**

All preparations for the 2011/12 Calendar were now complete and EW would be arranging printing and distribution shortly.

### **8.3 Publication of 'Draft' Minutes**

It had been proposed that the draft minutes be published on the County web site after clearance with MC members (by e-mail) and before formal approval and signature (at the next meeting). This would improve the currency of the MC's actions to increase transparency. The MC agreed to the proposal subject to appropriate redacting in respect of issues which were still confidential, e.g. details of nominations for awards not yet finalised.

### **8.4 Kremer Dersch – proposed change of format**

The Tournament Committee had suggested that arrangements for this event should include a short break at the half-way point to allow communication with a 'captive' audience of Clubs' representatives on issues of the day. If necessary an earlier start time would be used to accommodate this break. The MC agreed this proposal.

**Action: GS/JS**

EW concluded this section of the agenda by proposing a vote of thanks to the retiring Hon Secretary. This was carried by acclamation.

## **9. EBU Matters**

### **9.1 Number of Shareholders for Sussex**

See item 2.2.1 above.

### **9.2 Role of Shareholders**

Peter Bates presented his analysis of the questions posed in the EBU consultation document and commented where appropriate on the comments which Dave Armstrong had copied to the MC and the EBU. PB volunteered to draft a response to the EBU along the lines of his presentation and this offer was accepted by the MC. The final response would be agreed with all shareholders before issue.

**Action: PB**

### **9.3 Regional Club Committee activity**

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Barbara Herold had submitted a written report which the MC noted. DW observed that there was still a need to clarify the respective responsibilities of the Regional representative and the County shareholders for communications with Clubs. DW would arrange for this to be clarified in due course.

**Action: DW**

### **9.4 Sim Pairs Scoring**

PB reported that the EBU were preparing to insource scoring arrangements for BGB Sim Pairs from 1 April 2012. The background to this was not yet fully clear but it was expected to be discussed at the next County Chairmen's meeting in June.

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

In the absence of the Membership Secretary, EW reported that the membership count at the beginning of May was 3009.

### **11. Newsletter Editor**

#### **11.1 Appointment**

YL had accepted the appointment as Newsletter Editor. The MC noted this with approval and advised YL that, taking account of MC views, he should use his undoubted experience and expertise to judge the most appropriate structure of future newsletters.

#### **11.2 Content**

YL would use his experience and, if required, hold a meeting with others on the MC with an interest.

#### **11.3 Timing and Distribution**

The newsletter should issue to all individual members at least twice a year, particularly in July and February. Those issues would ensure that key messages were conveyed to all at the right times.

**Action: YL**

### **12. Communication Coordinator's Report**

CW provided a report to the EBU every month and it was important that she continued to receive all appropriate copy for those reports. She asked that she be copied in on anything which was being sent to other media, e.g. the web site.

**Action: MC Members**

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

**13.1** MW reported that the EBU Master Points licence review had been completed and a number of changes were in prospect from 1 April 2012. For example, a 50% P2P charge would now apply to County competitions and there would be no limit in future to the number of events which the County could run. It was observed that the changes were clearly designed to maximise EBU income from County events.

**13.2** MW reported that standard uploads were operating smoothly but he had continued to have problems with non-standard uploads, e.g. teams of eight. He was now using direct credit files rather than spreadsheets to try to overcome the problems.

### **14. Conduct Committee's Report**

JM reported that no issues had arisen in the period since the last meeting.

### **15. Education Report**

**15.1 Mini-bridge event for kids (matter arising 13)** DA had been asked if he would consider running a mini-bridge event in Sussex for children. He reported that his attempts to organise such an event at Blatchington Mill had not borne fruit. He did, however, suggest that he might organise a similar event for adult learners for which he believed there would be sufficient demand. The MC agreed that the feasibility of such an event should be explored further. In addition, DA agreed to explore the possibility of simple systems bridge being incorporated into any congress he was organising.

**Action: DA**

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**15.2** DA reported that four children had attended the Easter event in London and much useful experience had been gained. Five children had attended the Schools' Cup, one of which, playing with a non-Sussex player, had missed qualifying for the later stages by just 1 IMP.

### **16. Charities**

VC reported that SCCBA's charitable contributions had been most appreciated by the smaller organisations which had been supported. In each case these organisations had been able to purchase something very specific with the money donated. VC would pass on recommendations to her successor (JS) in this respect.

**Action: VC/JS**

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

EW was not convinced of the need for a meeting in July as well as October (at Henfield) and January (at Eastbourne). Further consideration would be given and proposed dates would be circulated as soon as possible. A mid-week evening (commencing at 7pm) was likely to be chosen in each case.

**Action: EW**

### **18. Any Other Business**

**18.1** DW circulated entry forms for the Hill's Trophy in November 2011 and asked MC members to advertise the event in their Clubs.

**Action: MC Members**

**18.2** EW was of the view that the Conduct Committee should review the County Constitution to establish the change(s) which might be needed to bring it up to date. JM agreed to take this on.

**Action: JM**

**18.3** EW proposed that the Tournament Committee be asked to draft terms of reference for the delegated powers it would need to limit referrals to the MC to only those issues of strategic or political importance. GS agreed to take this on and the MC agreed.

**Action: GS**

**18.4** DE suggested that one or more County competitions might be held on a weekday (daytime, not evening) instead of always at weekends. The rationale was that quite a number of County members are retired and DE knew of several quite good players who never played at weekends on principle, because they reserve such times for 'family' (grandchildren, etc.). GS agreed that the TC would consider the case for such an event at its next meeting.

**Action: GS**

### **19. Closure**

EW closed the meeting at 14.30 and asked that the MC's appreciation be passed on to Worthing Bridge Club for their hospitality.

**Attachment – Appointments and Organisers 2011/12**