

DRAFT

SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA took place at Worthing Bridge Club, 12 Byron Road, Worthing BN11 3HN on Friday 16 September 2016 starting at 7 pm

Present:

Mr M Pool (MP)	President
Mr A Ryder (AR)	Chairman
Mrs R Wolfarth (RW)	Vice-Chairman
Mr D Wheeler (DW)	Hon Secretary

And other elected members: Mr P Bates (PB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr D Galpin (DG) and Mr M Wright (MWr).

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs H Beveridge (HB), Mr J Hardy (JH) and Mr M Wotton (MW).

2. Minutes of the meeting of 22nd July 2016

2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as shown in the final draft.

2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 4.2, 4.3, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 8.4, 9.2 and 17 had been completed. Other actions from items 6.1, 6.2, 7.3, 8.2, 12, 13.2 and 17 would be picked up under the relevant items below.

3. Chairman's Report

AR reported that most of his time since the last meeting had been taken up with furthering his plans to attract more youngsters to the game. This would be discussed in more detail under item 13. He added that he was personally very disappointed that the Metropolitan Cup would not be held in 2016. He recognised that the organisation of the event was very demanding but he felt that if the burden was shared between three centres each covering one of the flights - A, B or C. It might be more manageable. DW agreed to put this onto the agenda for the next TC meeting in November.

Action: DW

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 JH had circulated copies of the financial statements to 31 August which showed the latest financial balances of £16231 (current accounts, including the competitions account) and £23282 (deposit account). The increase compared with the previous report reflected the addition of the donation by Vivian Priday. The current year to date showed an overall deficit of £806. JH had also circulated copies of a summary of tournament returns and the overall position there was positive.

4.2 JH had asked for MC confirmation that the subsidy in respect of the recent Youth Bridge Camp should be funded from the youth bridge allocation and not from general reserves. The MC confirmed this.

Action: JH

4.3 Following the cancellation of the Café Bridge and Golf/Bridge events, JH was now returning related entry fees totalling £680.

5. Selectors' Report

The Selectors had met that day and related minutes would be published in due course. AR had attended the meeting and he advised MC colleagues that Messrs Kennedy and Alishaw had been selected to represent the county in the Tollemache. As they were both still full time students, AR sought MC approval that their costs of participation should be fully met by the county. The MC agreed.

6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 Café Bridge – RW reported that despite much advance publicity, the number of entries had not reached the minimum of 18 pairs required to make the event viable. This was very disappointing and, having spoken further with those who had organised the very successful Guildford event, she believed that a significant proportion of the entrants there were from the ranks of the second and third year students being taught by local bridge teachers. She was keen to try again in 2017 and planned then to target some of the publicity to Sussex bridge teachers to see whether there might be similar interest here.

Action: RW

6.2 EBU Protocols for Leagues – The EBU 'Protocols for League competitions' had now been published within the L&E section on the EBU web site. DW would review them alongside the county competition rules and the more specific rules applicable to the Sussex League. DW would then use MP and DG as sounding boards for any resultant proposals for change before reporting back to the TC and MC in November.

Action: DW

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6.3 Potential use of Bolney Hall – RW and Joy Mayall had visited the site in July. There was a good sized main hall and a secondary hall which could be used for buffet style catering. The TC had therefore delegated authority to RW to use the site for a county event in 2017, eg the Kremer Dersch. She would report back in due course.

Action: RW

6.4 Spreading the Organiser Load – Other pressures had prevented RW from making any further progress on this front. She would report further in November.

Action: RW

6.5 Use of EBU Knockout software for Championship Teams – DW reported that the adoption of this software had caused some 'teething' problems with the scheduling of matches. MW had provided the Organiser with related advice and there had been no further comeback thus far.

6.6 Golf/Bridge day 2016 – The Organiser had reported to the TC that there were insufficient entries to this event to make it worthwhile. The TC had therefore, reluctantly, agreed that it should be cancelled whilst the deposit paid could still be reclaimed.

6.7 Location of GP events in 2017 – Eddie Williams had suggested to the TC that these events might attract more entries in 2017 if they were located more centrally, eg at Patcham BC. The TC had raised a number of concerns and RW was reviewing this and other options. She would report back in November.

Action: RW

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 Kremer Dersch – DW confirmed that it would only be possible for one county team to play in this year's event. Currently his records showed that there would be only 7 club teams entered. This underlined the importance of trying a more central location in 2017.

7.2 Rottingdean BC

DW reported that the possibility of this club becoming affiliated to the SCCBA/EBU had been referred to the club committee about a month ago but he had heard nothing more since. He confirmed that he had also alerted the EBU Club Liaison Officer to the possible interest.

7.3 C & D case – DW brought the MC up to date on this and summarised the line to take agreed in relation to the possibility of an entry to the Autumn Congress.

8. EBU Matters

8.1 Standing Committees – Revised Proposals – DW had circulated copies of Jeremy Dhondy's recent letter and attachment before the July MC meeting. The MC had supported the proposals in 2015 and the proposed changes reflected moves to assuage concerns expressed by other counties. The EBU Board had met on 14 September and the Chairman would be writing shortly to counties with the results of the consultations with counties over the objections raised in 2015. DW would advise MC Members further by email in due course.

Action: DW

8.2 RW took the opportunity of this standing agenda item to raise a question about an EBU Vice President. Her understanding was that this individual had been struck off the Solicitors' Roll for gross misconduct in 2013 and yet he was still shown as an EBU VP in the related web site entry. She was puzzled that the VP appointment had not been withdrawn in the circumstances and suggested that this might be raised at the forthcoming EBU AGM. The meeting was unsure as to the detailed arrangements regarding EBU VP appointments and MP undertook to make enquiries and report back by email.

Action: MP

9. Membership Secretary's Report

HB had reported that the county's membership total as of 11 September was 2940, 13 more than at the last meeting.

10. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

11. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

MW was currently on holiday and MP was acting as 'reserve'. There was nothing specific to report.

12. Conduct Committee Report

There was nothing specific to report beyond that recorded at paragraph 7.3. MP observed that John Pain, the Secretary of the EBU L & E Committee, had recently retired and his place was being taken by Ian Mitchell.

13. Education Report

13.1 Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp – This event, which had been organised as a replacement for the cancelled EBU Loughborough JTI, had been held at Ardingly College over the period 12-14 August and Surrey and Kent had been actively involved. 30 youngsters and 10 parents had attended and all had enjoyed themselves very much. If possible, AR planned to hold the event again in 2017, particularly as it was unclear that EBED would reinstate the Loughborough event following losses in previous years.

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13.2 Further Junior Bridge Festivals – AR confirmed that because the Avenue Junior Bridge Class continued to provide regular opportunities for youngsters who had attended previous festivals, the JBC would become the primary focus in 2017.

13.3 Bridge in Schools – AR reported that teaching was now being delivered at Farlington Girls School by Arthur Chopping and that Ian Wright continued to run sessions at Brighton College. Activity at the Avenue continued and Gerry Stanford was still teaching at Collyers. A bridge open day was also planned (by Gerry Stanford) at Ardingly School.

14. Charities

DW confirmed that it would not be necessary to trawl clubs for suggestions this year. Choices for 2017 had already been agreed (at the November 2015 MC meeting). These were Ingfield School for Parents and St Michael's Hospice.

15. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

MW'r had nothing to report on this occasion.

16. Date of Next Meeting

DW indicated that the next meeting would be at 7pm on Friday 25 November 2016 (at Worthing).

Action: DW

17. Any Other Business

17.1 Update of software in county equipment – MP asked whether the updates carried out by Ron Robins (RR) from time to time were advised to county TDs. DW agreed to check this with RR.

Action: DW

17.2 Equipment Storage – AR was concerned that the current arrangements whereby county equipment is stored at two locations were creating problems. He thought that sufficient space might be found at the Avenue for a single storage site. MW'r, AG and DG suggested that this might not be practical in terms of ease of collection and return. MW'r agreed to explore other options for a single site, eg at another club, and report back.

Action: MW'r

17.3 Display Equipment - PB enquired as to the whereabouts of the display equipment which had been used around the county at Libraries, etc to publicise the SCCBA. AR said that it was currently stored at the Avenue but it was no longer in good condition.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm