

## FINAL

# 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 17 January 2014 starting at 7 pm

### Present:

Mr M Pool (MP)	President
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 P Bates (PB), Miss J Simpson (JS), Mrs C Watson (CW), Mr A Southwell (AS), and Mr M Wright (MW).

## AGENDA

### 0. Opening Remarks

JM opened the meeting by thanking attendees and observing that as this was the last MC meeting before the AGM, she hoped that as many MC Members as possible would be present on 6 April.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mrs J Armstrong, Mr D Armstrong, Mrs A Galpin, Mr N Hardy, Mr B Campbell-Kearsey, Ms K Kennedy, Mr J Mitchell, Mr E Williams and Mr M Wotton.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> October 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 paras 2.2.4 and 8.1.

#### 2.2 Matters Arising

##### 1. Item 2.2.1 New Constitution – Election Processes and Membership T&C

DW rehearsed events since the last MC meeting, particularly the results of the working group established to make recommendations regarding the election processes required under the new constitution. The results had been summarised in papers circulated before the meeting, including a role description for the MC, an Annex describing in bullet form the key elements of the jobs undertaken by MC Members currently and a new combined nomination/application form for those wishing to serve on the MC. DW said that if any of those MC Members currently doing the jobs listed in the Annex wished to make any changes before it was issued formally (to clubs etc) they should e-mail him accordingly. MC Members indicated contentment with the recommendations made and DW agreed to use them in his preparations for the AGM 2014. DW indicated that he would seek MC endorsement of the revised membership T&C after discussion at item 4 regarding the P2P rate. DW also reported that following an enquiry from a number of MC Members, he had asked DG about insurance in respect of claims against MC Members in respect of their county activities. AG had researched the current insurance policy held by the county association and reported that MC Members seemed to be covered by that. AS asked whether this included legal fees but DW was unsure. He agreed to copy the AG analysis to all MC Members and to ask AG and AS to establish whether legal fees arising from actions against MC Members would be covered.

**Action – DW**

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

EW had reported by e-mail that the delayed course for county directors might now take place in May or June, or possibly in September if it was to include any changes effective from 1 August 2014. Any extension of this training to club directors would therefore have to wait until much later in 2014. MC Members expressed concern at this continuing delay and asked DW to e-mail EW requesting that the course for county directors take place as soon as possible. MP commented that any changes which would be 'slated' for introduction from 1 August would be known by the end of February and could, therefore, be included in a course run in March or subsequently.

**Action – DW/EW**

##### 3. Item 2.2.6 Metropolitan Cup Organiser

DW reported that Surrey had volunteered to take over the organisation of this event. GS and EW were in touch with the relevant contacts.

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### **4. Item 7 Location of Kremer Dersch in 2014**

JS indicated that she planned to alternate the location between Eastbourne and Old Barn but in order to plan the 2014 event she needed to know the date chosen. GS said that planning for this year's calendar would take place in February and March as it was intended to issue a Year Book (including the calendar) in 2014, shortly after the AGM. GS would advise JS as soon as possible.

**Action – GS**

### **5. Item 12 On-line Entries**

DG reported that the additional bank account (to receive BACS transfers) had been opened. As requested previously, MW did re-circulate to MC members his email on how to use the testing version of an on-line entry form. Comments from MC members had been subsequently received and forwarded. As a result, the BridgeWebs process which is used to provide on-line entry forms is being amended. MW would investigate the updated version when it's available. Discussion at the Tournament Committee (TC) had led to agreement that it would be wise to pilot the new arrangements at the first green pointed event in 2014. MW was leading preparations for this.

**Action – MW**

### **6. Item 18.1 Storage at Warden Park Academy**

DW reported that the working group set up to explore this option had reached the conclusion that a shared arrangement at WPA could not be recommended. Access during term time would be unacceptably restricted. The option was not therefore being pursued further.

### **7. Item 18.2 SCCBA as a Charity and**

### **8. Item 18.3 Possible amendments to the new constitution**

It was understood that Geoffrey Wolfarth (GW) had been very busy over recent weeks and had not been able to consider these issues further. The MC agreed that it would wait until he was able to advise further.

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

JM referred to the letter she had sent by e-mail to all members on the county e-mail list. This had reviewed current issues and she believed that it was important to keep the membership up to date, particularly now that newsletters were not issued as frequently as in the past. The planned Year Book for 2014/15 would also contain some articles on topical issues. Looking forward to the AGM, she reported that CW had indicated a wish to stand down. Through the organisation of the NYST, her current role as external communications co-ordinator and other work CW had given 13 years of service to the county and JM expressed the thanks of the MC for CW's commitment to these roles over a sustained period. JM hoped that all other MC Members present would be willing to stand again at the AGM.

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

**4.1** DG reported the latest balances (at 31 12 13) as £7755 (current account) and £22930 (deposit account). The total represented a surplus of £1500 before depreciation but the latter would be around £1300 suggesting a broadly break-even position for the year.

**4.2** In light of this overall position, DG recommended that the P2P rate should remain at 7p not only for 2014/15 – it had been approved as a “maximum of 7p” at the 2013 AGM – but also as the proposed maximum for 2015/16 to be considered at the next AGM. JS asked whether it was right to maintain reserves of around £30K whilst keeping the P2P rate at 7p. DW commented that a reduction would lead to a significant loss in running costs each year which, in principle, should not be financed by the reserves. He added that such a reduction would not bring any benefit to individual members and if the MC wished to reduce its reserves it should look at additional investments it might make, eg in the education area. MC Members agreed with DG's recommendations. MC Members also agreed with the proposed recommendations for Membership T&C and these would be put to the AGM for approval.

**Action - DW**

## **5. Selectors' Report**

**5.1** Sussex's performance in the Tollemache Cup (5<sup>th</sup> of 9 Counties with a VP total a little under average) had been reviewed at the last Selectors' meeting. There had been considerable problems during the event with the computer scoring and the contribution of our team member Richard Fedrick had been of great assistance to the team and to JMi as Captain, providing the team with figures more accurate than those the EBU produced during the event. A letter had been sent to the EBU to comment on these shortcomings, the subsequent unreliable cross-imping figures the EBU produced (for a while one of our pairs was shown as having played more boards than there were in the event!), and our dissatisfaction with the event schedule and, consequently, the hotel catering arrangements. A reply was awaited.

**5.2** As his last action before handing over to JMi as the new Chairman of Selectors, DG planned to write to members of the Met Cup 'B' and 'C' pairs to explore interest in a follow-up event in Solihull. JM expressed the thanks of the MC for DG's commitment to this role over a sustained period.

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### 6. Tournament Committee Report

**6.1** GS reported that generally entry numbers had been slightly down in 2013/14 although the David Pavey event had experienced a substantial increase.

**6.2** AG had reported to the TC the following dates for Invitation Pairs events 2014:

8 April, 8 May, 30 May, 20 June, 15 July, 5 September, 9 October, 11 November.  
and requested that they be avoided when planning other events and meetings.

**6.3** Difficulties had arisen at the NYST as a result of incompatibilities between sets of *BridgeMates* putting additional pressure of the Director and Scorer. DG was commended for his recovery of the situation. The MC agreed that in future we should aim at a single responsibility for the management and maintenance of IT equipment and that we should have three full sets of that equipment (*BridgeMates*, server and Laptop) available for allocation to county directors. JM reported that Ron Robins (RR) had indicated that he might be willing to take on such a responsibility and that all the equipment could be stored at Patcham BC to facilitate his management and maintenance. DW agreed to write to RR to explore this further.

Action - DW

### 7. Secretary's Report

#### 7.1 Gladys Hakki Trophy 2014

DW reported that he had already received three nominations for this award so there would be a secret ballot conducted by e-mail in due course. Any MC Members nominated for the award would not participate in that ballot. The closing date for nominations was 31 January and DW would be in touch with MC Members soon after that.

Action - DW

#### 7.2 Year Book 2014

DW reported that, as indicated above, it was planned to issue a Year Book in 2014 and this would include not only the usual calendar information lists of appointments but also all of the entry forms for the year's events and a number of other bridge articles similar to those previously published through newsletters. JM, GS and AS had agreed to assemble copy and HB and MW had agreed to act as proof readers. The aim was to issue the YB to all members as soon as possible after the AGM.

Action JM/GS/AS

### 8. EBU Matters

#### 8.1 EBU County Forum

PB had indicated SCCBA's willingness to contribute to this new forum, promising that at least two shareholders would attend any meeting. He had suggested that as Sussex and the other Home Counties were members of the Metropolitan Group it would be sensible for the hosting of meetings to be in London to facilitate travel with minimum inconvenience. Thus far London had not been forthcoming in this respect. MC Members agreed that we should await further action/contact by the EBU.

### 9. Membership Secretary's Report

HB reported that the county's membership total was 2968 as of 17 January. She added that her e-mail database now comprised 1666 addresses, of which just 178 had 'unsubscribed'.

### 10. Communications Committee's Report

BC-K had not submitted a report.

### 11. Press Officer's Report

As this would be her last MC meeting, CW reiterated her request that photos for publication should be of good quality otherwise they would not be acceptable to the EBU. In response to a request from DW, CW agreed to provide a bullet point summary of her role for succession planning purposes.

Action - CW

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

MW reported by e-mail that:

- An Invitation Pairs problem necessitated a BridgeWebs upgrade which caused subsequent problems which necessitated further upgrades and fixes. All problems have now been resolved.
- MW had reported the loss of numerous old results from the web-site as a BridgeWebs problem. Some results have now been restored but quite a few are still missing at the moment.

Action - MW

### 13. Conduct Committee Report

There were no current issues under consideration.

### 14. Education Report

#### 14.1 Teacher Training

DW reported that the planned EBUTA course had been completed and two members from Sussex had qualified. A further course was planned for 2014.

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### **14.2 Bridge in Schools**

DW reported that whilst very good progress had been made to establish contacts with all of the schools involved in West Sussex, in some it was proving difficult to agree individual school teachers who were willing to work in partnership with the allocated bridge teachers. JM outlined a summary report she had received from Linda Souter. John Frosztega was presently teaching two tables weekly in Holy Trinity School, Crawley. Ian MacGregor was teaching 5 students weekly in the lunch hour at Downlands School. Ian has also been assigned to Patcham School which hopes to start lessons this term. Nigel Flynn was in contact with The Angmering School with a view to starting classes this term. GS is teaching 5 students at Collyers School. Philip Hunt was still struggling to start at Burgess Hill and Andrew Pettit's teaching had ceased at Warden Park due to lack of students. In addition, Chris & Christina Harvey (Meridian Bridge Club) have approached Heathfield Community College after an initial visit from GS and LS, but so far there had been no contact back from the deputy head. GS hoped to link Matt Smith (Bexhill) up with St Richard's Catholic School. Efforts would continue to be made to push all of these streams of activity towards the planned outcomes. JM reported that Paul Allen of Lewes BC had put the county in touch with the East Sussex Education Adviser who had written to East Sussex schools offering the *Bridge in Schools* initiative.

### **14.3 Teaching Web Site**

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

**Action – BC-K**

### **14.4 Seminars for Improvers**

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

**Action - BC-K**

### **14.5 Loughborough Juniors Event – Options for increased attendance**

DA would be asked to report on this at the May 2014 meeting.

**Action - DA**

### **15. Charities**

JS had nothing to report.

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

MW'r had nothing to report.

### **17. Dates of Next Meetings**

DW indicated that the next meeting would be on 16 May 2014 (at Worthing).

**Action – DW**

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

#### **18.1 Honours Nominations**

DW had been asked to put this on the agenda by GW but he had not commented further. DW observed that to stand any chance of success a nomination for services to bridge would probably require the support of the national body, ie the EBU. JS was not sure about this. In any event, MC Members agreed that no obvious candidates came to mind at this time.

#### **18.2 Exhibition Display Equipment**

PB enquired as to the whereabouts of the county's exhibition display equipment. GS indicated that it was currently stored at his house following use at a Horsham schools open day. PB and GS would liaise over the possible use of the equipment at Henfield.

**Action PB/GS**

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm**