

## 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 July 2015 starting at 7 pm

### Present:

Mr A Ryder (AR)	Chairman
Mr D Galpin (DG)	Hon Treasurer
Mr D Wheeler (DW)	Hon Secretary

And other elected members: Mrs H Beveridge, Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr G Stanford (GS), Mrs R Wolfarth (RW) and Mr M Wright (MWr). Mr J Hardy (Worthing BC) also attended as an observer.

## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr P Bates (PB), Mr M Pool (MP) and Mr M Wotton (MW). In presenting his apology, PB had advised that he had conveyed the MC's best wishes to Bob Whiting for a speedy recovery and Bob had responded by asking that his thanks and appreciation be conveyed to the MC.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015

#### 2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as drafted.

#### 2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 5.1, 6, 7.1, 7.2, 8.2, 8.3, 10, 16 and 17 had been completed. Other actions from items 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 13 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 trying to refresh the initiative to attract youngsters to the game. This would be discussed in more detail under item 13.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 DG reported the latest financial balances as £6261 (current account), £746 (competitions account) and £33133 (deposit account, including the remainder of the lottery funding for the youth bridge project). The current account balance reflected the position after payment of Year Book costs and completion of the charity donations for 2015. The latter were £375 to each of *Know Dementia* and *Beachy Head Chaplaincy Trust*. This was based on an estimate of the final total receipts and the MC approved these allocations even if the final total receipts proved to be slightly less than £750.

4.2 The May Green Point Swiss Pairs had generated a surplus of £487 compared with £705 in 2014 mainly because the number of tables was down by 7. Nearly two thirds of entries had been via the on-line system demonstrating its growing popularity.

4.3 MWr enquired whether a better interest rate might be available for the deposit account. DG replied that the funds included the remainder of the Lottery funding (around £9000) and this was expected to be spent in the next two months. He agreed that it might be possible to move the remainder of the reserves to a better account but that would probably involve a fixed term and he was reluctant to tie up the fund in that way and thereby restrict the association's room for future financial manoeuvre.

### 5. Selectors' Report

The Selectors had met that morning and the minutes of their meeting would be circulated to MC Members as soon as possible. The agreed process for Tollemache selections had been circulated to Clubs and published on the web site as actioned at the last meeting.

Action - DW

### 6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 Timing of Green Point and Congress Events – DW enquired whether there had been any feedback from attendees at the GP Swiss Pairs regarding the earlier start time or location. RW replied that the Crowborough venue had received much praise but she had not received any feedback (positive or negative) about the start time or the location. She would seek feedback (via Eddie Williams) from the GP Swiss Teams later this month.

Action - RW

6.2 IT Asset Management – Additional Equipment – DW reported that he had received e-mail advice from Eddie Williams that the five additional *Bridgemate* units had been purchased and EW had expected to receive them last weekend. DG advised that he had not yet received the related invoice.

6.3 Strengthening League Rules – DW had circulated a paper on this which proposed a strengthening of rule 9 regarding unplayed matches. The change was in response to the further difficulties which had

## FINAL

arisen in Division 5 at the end of last season. MC Members were content to endorse the change as proposed. DG would incorporate that in his letter to team captains for the 2015/16 season.

**Action - DG**

**6.4 Strengthening Tollemache Performance** – AR's previous consultations with the county's top players had appeared to reveal a minority consensus in favour of organising one or more training days, led by a professional player and designed to improve the performance of those likely to be in contention for selection in future. However, he had attended this morning's meeting of the Selectors and there were doubts now as to the real value of such an investment. He had agreed that performance would be reviewed again after the 2015/16 event.

**Action - AR**

**6.5 Director Training** – DW had understood that an update course for county TDs was planned for this month but DG commented that he had not received an invitation. DW would check on this after the meeting. Update courses for Club TDs, fully subsidised by the county, were planned for early August at Worthing and Eastbourne.

**Action - DW**

**6.6 Chairman's Cup** – Given the priority being given to the youth bridge initiative, AR had decided to revert to the original format for this event in 2015. Julian Mitchell would be issuing invitations shortly.

**6.7 Collaboration with other counties** – Following initial exchanges with counterparts in Hampshire, Surrey and Kent, RW was exploring the potential benefits of shared GP events in 2017. This might prompt reduced costs for both counties involved. Surrey had agreed to the inclusion on their web site of the advert for the Sussex Youth Bridge Festival (see item 13 below). In addition, AR and RW planned to attend the Guildford Café Bridge event to judge whether there might be value in the SCCBA promoting something similar in Sussex.

**Action – RW/AR**

**6.8 Met Cup teams in 2015** – The Chairman of the Selectors had previously sought financial approval for five teams (A, BB and CC) but AR reported that at the Selectors meeting today only four had been selected, perhaps reflecting overall player availability.

**6.9 Henfield Candles** – DW reported that given the popularity of this event over very many years the TC had decided to adopt it as a county event. RW had volunteered to be the organiser and plans for the 2016 event were in train.

**6.10 Organiser Guidelines** – The guidelines agreed by MC Members had been circulated to all organisers as required.

**6.11 Trophies for Sussex League Divisions 3, 4 and 5** - DW reported that member Tim Greenhill had offered to present SCCBA with funds to purchase trophies for Sussex League Divisions 3, 4, and 5 to bring them into line with divisions 1, 2 and 6. MC Members asked that their thanks be conveyed to TG accordingly. DW would e-mail him after the meeting. DG advised that he had visited a trophy shop in his locality and suitable trophies and related engraving could be purchased within the amount to be donated. He circulated a booklet showing such trophies. Members agreed to proceed with the purchases and DG and AG would visit the shop again to deal with this. The meeting also considered names for the trophies. In an earlier e-mail exchange with TG, the latter had initially requested that his name should not be used for any of the trophies but, after further discussion, he had agreed that it might be recommended to the MC that the three trophies be named after three individuals who had contributed most to the League. DW's suggestion was that Div 3 should be named after DG, who had run the competition for 15 years, Div 4 after Ron Buddery, subject to his approval, as he had run a forerunner of the current competition for three years and Div 5 after Tim Greenhill, its major benefactor. The meeting agreed this proposal. DG would contact RB to confirm this would be acceptable to him.

**Action – DG/AG/DW**

## 7. Secretary's Report

**7.1 Year Book 2015/16** – DW reported that following publication of the YB he was now collecting amendments. He would issue these 'en bloc' towards the end of August and asked MC Members to advise him of any further corrections as soon as possible.

**Action - All**

**7.2 Appointments 2015/16** – DW reported that thus far he had received no firm suggestions for filling the vacancies for MC Members and the IE post. John Hardy (JH) had been approached by DW and was attending this meeting as an observer to inform his consideration of his possible candidacy for the Treasurer post. DW had provided related documentation and JH would discuss matters further with DG with a view to deciding before the next MC meeting. JH mentioned that he had an accountancy background and had acted as Treasurer for another voluntary organisation in the past. DG observed that this experience would make him suitable for either of the Treasurer or IE posts.

**Action – DG/DW/JH**

**7.3 Improving Ties with Chichester BC** - DW had relayed the ideas agreed at the last MC meeting but, at its July committee meeting, CBC had decided that it was not able to pursue any of them at this time. DW had agreed to convey this disappointing news to the MC and had indicated the MC was open to further contact as and when CBC wished it. RW added that she had contacted CBC with a view to

## FINAL

attending as a visitor player to improve communication and understanding but she had been discouraged from doing even this in the short term.

**7.4 Approval of Accounts – Future Process** – DW would bring a draft AGM Agenda to the next MC meeting for approval following the future process agreed on 8 May.

**Action - DW**

### 8. EBU Matters

**8.1 EBU Youth Care Policy** – DW had asked Dave Armstrong to record the preparations made to comply with this policy based on his experience in relation to the Loughborough JTI event this year in order to use that as an example for those involved in other youth activity. DW would follow up on this in due course.

**Action - DW**

**8.2 Dimmie Fleming Award 2015** – DW had circulated the annual request from the EBU for DF nominations to MC Members and Clubs. Only one nomination had been received, from Julian Mitchell, in favour of David Galpin. This was supported by Richard Newton, Martin Pool, Andy Ryder, Joy Mayall, Peter Bates and Dick Wheeler. In addition to the main nomination, which recorded the many contributions which David had made over very many years to the success of Sussex bridge, personal testimonies would be annexed to emphasise the strength of the nomination. DW invited MC Members to approve the nomination. MC Members agreed by acclamation. DW would finalise the documentation and submit it to the EBU shortly.

**Action - DW**

### 9. Membership Secretary's Report

**9.1** HB reported that the county's membership total as of 17 July was 2997, 16 more than at the last meeting. The membership database contained 1531 workable e-mail addresses after 212 had unsubscribed. There was just one dual member in 2015/16.

**9.2 Dual members** - HB referred to previous e-mail exchanges with MW and suggestions that he'd made with a view to increasing the number of Dual Members. Whilst HB had agreed with these suggestions in principle, further action would involve multiple enquiries of clubs and individual members in pursuit of further clarity. She asked whether the MC was content to agree to this. DW observed that such enquiries would be very time consuming for little financial return and he wondered whether the MC should consider recommending cancellation of the dual member charge at the next AGM. MC Members agreed to reflect on this and return to the subject at the next meeting.

**Action – DW**

**9.3 Cancellation of Direct Member charge** – DG reported that the decision finally taken at the 2015 AGM to cancel the direct member charge had been too late to be included in EBU arrangements for 2015/16. In light of this MC Members agreed that the change should be implemented for 2016/17 onwards and that it was not necessary to refund direct debits applied by the EBU for 2015/16.

**Action DG/DW**

### 10. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

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

MW had reported by e-mail that two-thirds of the entries for the Green Point Swiss Pairs had used the on-line method. This was the highest proportion yet for any SCCBA event. He had hoped that master point awards for the Championship Teams and Plate events for 2014-15 would be worked out automatically by the EBU (as has been done for the League for the past 3-4 years) but this was still not possible so he had done them manually again – hopefully for the last time.

### 12. Conduct Committee Report

Whilst there had been nothing to report from the Conduct Committee itself, its Chairman (Jill Armstrong) had enquired of DW about MC policy on retention of CC case papers. Subsequent discussion between JA, DW, MP (for his EBU experience) and Joy Mayall (JA's predecessor) had resulted in the paper circulated. MC Members were content to agree to the recommendations made. DW would inform those concerned in due course.

**Action - DW**

### 13. Education Report

**13.1 Teaching at Schools/Clubs** – AR reported that teaching was continuing at Christ's Hospital and the Avenue. In addition, Ian Wright had taken on the task of refreshing contact with schools and colleges. Initial reactions seemed positive and there was a possibility that we would be short of teachers to undertake the mini-bridge courses proposed. AR had therefore e-mailed all SCCBA members about interest in a course for prospective trainers. Through the combination of these activities it was hoped to raise the numbers of youngsters being introduced to the game.

**Action - AR**

**13.2 Expanded entry to EBU Loughborough JTI** – Efforts to expand our entry to this event had been successful with 22 now expected to attend, an increase of 50% on 2014. It was hoped that most of these participants would also attend the Sussex Junior Bridge Festival – see 13.3.

**13.3 Sussex Junior Bridge Festival** – Plans for this event were now being fleshed out. It would take place at the Avenue BC during the week before the EBU Brighton Congress. Advertisements were

## **FINAL**

appearing in the press today and non-bridge activities were planned as well as bridge teaching and play.

**Action – AR**

### **14. Charities**

There was nothing further to report beyond that recorded in paragraph 4 above.

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

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

### **16. Dates of Next Meetings**

DW indicated that the next meeting would be at 7pm on 16 October, subsequently changed to 20 November, 2015 (at Worthing).

**Action – DW**

### **17. Any Other Business**

Kremer Dersch 2015 – DW advised that plans for the next KD event (on 4 October) were now in hand. He would be in touch with MC Members shortly about the make-up of the MC teams.

**Action - DW**

**The meeting closed at 8.48pm**