

FINAL 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 17 August 2018 starting at 10.30am

Present:

Mr M Pool (MP)	President and Chairman
Mr J Hardy (JH)	Hon Treasurer
Mr D Wheeler (DW)	Hon Secretary

And other elected members: Mr P Bates (PB), Mr P Clinch (PC), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr D Galpin (DG), Mrs J Mayall (JM), Mr M Wotton (MW) and Mr M Wright (MWr).

Mr W Bourne also attended (for agenda item 13) at the invitation of the Chairman, although was not entitled to vote.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Mr N Watts (NW). [Post meeting note – After the meeting it was established that DW had used an obsolete email address to send MC papers to newly elected member Neil Watts (NW). NW's apology was therefore noted at that point.]

2. Minutes of the meeting of 11 May 2018

2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as shown in the final draft. DW expressed his thanks to JH who had stepped in at the last moment to produce these minutes.

2.2 Matters Arising

Action from items 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 6.4, 7.3, 7.4 and 12 had been completed. Other actions would be picked up under the relevant items below.

3. Chairman's Report

MP indicated that he had nothing further to report beyond the various contributions he would make under later items of the agenda.

4. Treasurer's Report

JH reported the latest financial balances (at 30th June 2018), with total bank balances being £42,632 (31st December 2017: £40,315). Surplus on the income and expenditure account was £2,338, compared to £2,775 at this time last year. Overheads (£6,762) were lower than 2017 (£7,630), primarily due to a £1,000 saving on printing and distribution costs for the Year Book. MC members wished to congratulate Gerry Stanford (YB Editor) in this respect.

5. Selectors' Report

5.1 Committee - MP reported that the selection committee had been reconstituted as Chris Jepson (Chair), Mick Carrington, Mike Keeping, Neil Watts and Roger Poulter. MC members indicated their approval of these appointments.

5.2 Tollemache selection process. - MP reported that the new SC had produced a new design for the Tolle selection process. This would be more evidence based (where possible through the collection of performance data from each of the potential candidate pairs). The SC would produce a short list of possible pairs using the committee's knowledge, the results of events, any reports from the possibles and availability. Each member of the SC would then list them in order of preference with first being one, second two etc. All SC members' lists would then be added together and the pairs with the lowest numbers would be selected. All members of the SC would vote regardless of whether they were a possible to be selected or not. If there was a tie then any members involved in that tie would be asked to leave whilst it was split. AG asked whether the detailed results of this process would be published. MP replied that the process was essentially a secret ballot but he would act as custodian of the data produced and the analysis of the results to ensure a fully objective approach. MC members were content to approve this revision. DW would advise Chris Jepson accordingly.

Action: DW

6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 CTD role – PC had been advised by Eddie Williams (EW) of his decision to resign from this position because of perceived duplication with PC's role, although EW indicated willingness to organise GP events. PC had discussed this further with EW but EW was of the view that there was too much overlap between the TM role and a CTD. PC disagreed, citing oversight of the panel of county TDs including recruitment of replacements, ensuring county TD education was up-to-date and the provision of senior level rulings as examples of responsibilities which were clearly outwith the agreed TM job description and dependent on a senior level TD background. DW observed that EW appeared to be by far the best local choice for such a role but clearly he was not keen to take it on. DW wondered whether a different approach might involve creating a partnership with an EBU Director for the direction of flagship Events, leaving the local panel to continue to be the source of TDs for other events. That EBU Director might also be the source of CTD type activities by special arrangements. The TC had endorsed this approach and MC members agreed. PC would make the necessary enquiries and report back.

Action: PC

6.2 Chairman's Cup – The MC had referred discussion on this back to the TC. Given previous difficulties and the absence now of a volunteer to organise and provide refreshments for this event, TC members were not inclined to continue with it. MC members agreed. DG observed that there would be a need to amend the competition rules and, perhaps, the entry forms in the YB for the events from which CC qualifiers were taken. MW and DW would explore and amend as required.

Action: DW/MW

6.3 Competition Rules – Qualifiers and Reserves – Following a suggestion by William Bourne (WB), DW had circulated a paper proposing these changes and a revised version of the full rules. MP observed that the reference to the White Book might usefully have the relevant section added (2.3.6). MC members were content to approve these changes.

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Action: DW/PC

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 EGM 2018 – The final draft of the minutes of this had been produced and published and, again, DW expressed his thanks to JH who had stepped in at the last moment to produce these minutes.

7.2 Appointments 2018/19 and Succession Planning - DW had circulated the latest appointments list for 2018/19 for MC approval. With the Officers and committee members having been elected at the EGM held earlier, the MC approved unanimously the circulated list of other appointments. Following a request from the Officers, DW had also issued an email to club contacts seeking input from club committees regarding succession planning for the MC. AG observed that Julian Mitchell had copied the email to all Avenue BC committee members for ideas. PB asked that the email be copied to MC members and DW agreed to do so.

Action: DW

7.3 Year book 2018/19 and corrections – The YB had been issued successfully in June. DW was assembling a list of corrections for issue to all clubs next month and requested that any further changes be notified to him by the end of this month. JM reported that the issue had generated 35 'bounces' and where possible she had emailed the members concerned and a number of changed addresses had been noted and reported to the EBU. Other bounces had been pursued via the clubs concerned. In all around a half of the bounces had been resolved thus far.

Action: DW

7.4 Constitution changes – DW had circulated a draft proposal for approval at the AGM 2019 covering the changes necessary to revise the requirements for a quorum at general meetings. MC members were content for this proposal to go to the AGM 2019.

Action: DW

7.5 SCCBA and social media - DW had established that two Facebook pages had been created some years ago by Andy Ryder (AR) to publicise youth bridge in Sussex. This development had not been presented to the MC for adoption as an SCCBA facility at the time and AR had recently asked for copies of photos from the Ardingly 2018 event to enable them to be posted on these pages. These photos had been agreed by parents, etc for use in relation to official SCCBA publicity and GDPR provisions required that agreement to be strictly respected. DW sought MC views as to the adoption of the AR Facebook presence as an official SCCBA facility. MC members expressed concern about how a general purpose SCCBA Facebook page might be effectively monitored to ensure its ongoing accuracy and compliance with GDPR provisions. In addition, there were emerging ideas for a Facebook presence to support the regional approach to youth bridge which was now being discussed following the Ardingly event (see paragraph 13.3 below). In these circumstances MC members did not believe it would be sensible to 'adopt' the pages created by AR at this stage. DW agreed to advise AR that, whilst the official SCCBA social media strategy was being developed, neither of his pages should represent themselves as SCCBA pages. DW also advised MC members that he had downloaded the EBU advice on the creation of social media pages by clubs. This could be useful to counties as well. PC asked to see a copy of the advice and DW agreed to email him.

Action: DW

7.6 Kremer Dersch 2018 - DW had prepared the usual invitation for entries. MC members were content for this to be issued to clubs. The accompanying email would make reference to the proposed presentation regarding the youth bridge strategy (see paragraph 13.3 below).

Action: DW

8. EBU Matters

8.1 Shareholders meeting 16 May – PB had circulated a detailed report. He highlighted the welcome financial 'windfall' which had arisen following the Portland Club's decision to discontinue their claims for royalties on the sale of law books. He also drew attention to the rather disappointing statistic that had emerged from the latest EBU membership campaign that only 31% of those taught bridge actually moved on to become members of affiliated clubs. This underlined the importance of there being a progression of sessions for inexperienced players to encourage them eventually to transition to club competitions and, eventually, county events.

8.2 Future Shareholders' meetings - The EBU was consulting on the future of these meetings. Of the options suggested, that which involved a Chairmen's meeting and a shareholder meeting in alternate years seemed to be the most sensible. DW would convey this view to the EBU.

Action: DW

8.3 County Working Groups - The EBU had recently renewed attempts to create a viable working group covering London and the South East. Sussex views on this had been re-conveyed by PB and we await further developments.

8.4 EBU Awards – DW had received just one nomination (for a Dimmie Fleming award) in favour of AG. MC members confirmed their wholehearted support for the nomination. DW would complete the formal documentation and send it to the EBU before the deadline of 22 August.

Action: DW

8.5 World Youth Team Championships – DW rehearsed the lead which the SCCBA had taken in organising sponsorship of the England junior teams. Although all of the teams had played well at times, unfortunately none of them had qualified for the quarter finals. Nevertheless the experience will have stood them in good stead for future championships.

9. Membership Secretary's Report

9.1 Membership – JM reported that the county's membership total as of 17 August 2018 was 2786, 17 more than at the last meeting. JM added that of this total only around 500 had not registered an email address. With over 2200 on the email list the latter was becoming a more valuable means of communications with the membership. JM also reported that Hazel Beveridge and Brian Kirkdale had been working with her to develop a filter for the membership files sent by the EBU each month. This would help her understand more easily the changes compared with the previous month. MC members expressed their gratitude for this work.

9.2 Increasing membership – The EBU had undertaken a pilot exercise in conjunction with the Yorkshire county association to develop a package of templates, advice and support which might be used in partnership with those clubs which wished to invest the resources necessary to pursue a significant increase in their membership. PB advised that when the full package was available

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it might be usefully discussed further by the MC. DW emphasised that an initiative of this sort would only succeed if it had the wholehearted support of the club(s) involved. It could not succeed by being 'imposed' by the county.

9.3 GDPR 2018 – DW had issued advice to other committees re security and cc and bcc conventions for email address lists. MC members had confirmed they were content to continue the practice of cc lists for MC communications. The latest advice from the EBU suggested there wasn't a need for a contract between SCCBA and EBU because affiliated counties were committed to compliance with all EBU policies. SCCBA had this explicitly stated in its constitution. The situation with Bridgewebs was less clear and a contract might be sensible to clarify roles and responsibilities. DW would contact them for their views.

Action: DW

10. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion. DW remarked that with the increasing sophistication of the web site and its associated links (together with the thought now being given to the use of social media), it was arguable that this role had become moribund. MC members agreed. DW would write to Geoffrey Wolfarth accordingly.

Action: DW

11. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

MW reported that following a very busy six month period of additional work mainly in support of the Ardingly project, he was 'enjoying' a period of relative quiet for which he was very grateful. PC enquired about back-up for MW given the increased importance of the web site. DW said that MP had stood in for MW for holidays, etc in the past but this had involved only essential maintenance. DW observed that the succession planning initiative (see paragraph 7.2 above) would be important in this respect. Indeed, MW's role had been used as an example of the key roles for which succession plans should be developed.

12. Conduct Committee Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

13. Education Report

13.1 Junior Bridge Camp Ardingly 2018 - William Bourne joined the meeting for this item and that recorded at paragraph 13.3 below. He had circulated a detailed report in advance of the meeting. The event had been an unqualified success for the juniors but the parents had noted a number of concerns about the venue. Learning from these would be likely to see the 2019 event held elsewhere, perhaps at a leisure camp site, eg Bowles. The final subsidies from each county had been broadly similar (Sussex £570, Kent and Surrey £500 each). MP congratulated WB on the success of the event and recognised the substantial but largely unseen work which MW had done to ensure full web site support.

Action: IW

13.2 Bridge in Schools – Ian Wright (IW) had circulated a paper reporting current activity together with an outline plan to expand teaching in schools. A key pre-requisite for increased activity in schools was ensuring the availability of sufficient numbers of teachers and IW proposed one or more courses to address this. MC members were supportive of this in principle if that would help us to target primary schools in the way IW described. When there were firmed up plans for one or more courses, it would be important for the MC to approve the budget for the county's support. The key thing would be to demonstrate that there were realistic prospects in certain schools in all respects other than the sufficiency of bridge teachers. It would not be fair to those undertaking the course(s) if there proved subsequently not to be sufficient opportunities for them to exercise their new skills. DW would liaise with IW accordingly.

Action: IW/DW

13.3 Junior bridge – Long term strategy - WB had circulated a report of his meetings at Ardingly and subsequently. The key criterion for success was seen to be the creation of a 'critical mass' of youngsters and the maintenance of their interest through a programme of events delivered by a partnership of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex associations at locations across the South East region. Sussex would contribute a junior bridge camp similar to Ardingly each year. Other important factors were the nurture of enthusiasm amongst parents and, where appropriate, school teachers together with active support from as many bridge clubs as possible. In that context, it was suggested that a short (10 minutes) presentation might be made at the next Kremer Dersch event. WB thought that the relevant date (28 October) clashed with another commitment but he would explore the possibility of another of his regional group attending. It would also be vital that the younger generation was directly involved in the planning and delivery of the strategy. WB reported that Ollie Powell had shown enthusiastic support at the Ardingly meeting and DW agreed to explore with him the possibility that he might play a leading part in future. Additionally, effective publicity would be essential and this would need to involve links between the three county web sites, possibly a dedicated web site as well as the development of a targeted social media presence. The Kent/Surrey/Sussex regional planning group would be meeting again at the end of August or early September. MP indicated that the MC was happy to support such a strategy subject of course to the consideration of more detailed plans/budgets in due course. DW would liaise with WB accordingly.

Action: WB/DW

14. Charities

DW would be issuing the trawl for nominations for the charities to benefit in 2019 shortly.

Action: DW

15. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

MW reported that the storage space (6' x 3') currently rented (£30 pm) for county tables and other equipment would not be available beyond the end of 2018. Ideas for alternatives were invited. A commercial option would increase the cost to £70 pm. MC members were asked to alert MW to any other ideas but failing that he should pursue the commercial option.

Action: MC members/ MW

16. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 30th November 2018 at Worthing Bridge Club, commencing at 10.30 am

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 12.42pm