

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 18 March 2016 starting at 7 pm

Present:

Mr M Pool (MP)	President
Mr A Ryder (AR)	Chairman
Mr D Galpin (DG)	Hon Treasurer
Mr D Wheeler (DW)	Hon Secretary

And other elected members: Mr P Bates (PB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr G Stanford (GS), Mrs R Wolfarth (RW), Mr M Wotton (MW) and Mr M Wright (MWr).

Mr J Hardy (JH) also attended as a co-opted member.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs H Beveridge (HB).

2. Minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2015

2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as drafted.

2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 6.10, 7.5 and 16 had been completed. Other actions from items 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.8, 7.2, 7.4, 7.6, 7.7, 9.2, 12, 13.1, 13.3, 13.5 and 15 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.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 DG reported the latest financial balances as £10711 (current account) as at 18 March and £430 (competitions account) and £23214 (deposit account) both as at the end of February.

4.2 The New Year Swiss Teams event had broken even, primarily because of the sterling efforts of the organiser, Joy Mayall, to ensure that as many teams as possible were encouraged to enter. MC Members thanked Joy for her hard work in support of this event.

4.3 The charity donations for the current year had now been made with £417.50 going to each of the Oyster Project in Lewes and the Pericles Theatre in West Hoathly. The latter had offered complimentary tickets to a production of the Tailor of Gloucester in Hove on 30 May, 1 June or 3 June. If any MC Member was interested they should contact DG.

4.4 Subject to MC comments, DG planned to propose to the upcoming AGM that the county P2P rate remain unchanged for 2017/18. MC Members agreed.

Action: DG

4.5 At the end of December 2015, £7204 of the lottery funding allocation had been spent and included in that year's accounts. With the agreement of the Big Lottery Fund, the remainder (£2796) had been brought forward into 2016 and of that £1376 had been spent thus far, mainly on the second Youth Bridge Festival held at the Avenue BC in February and the young players' match at the House of Lords. £460 had been added to the fund through a donation made by the Avenue BC leaving £1880 available for further activities in 2016.

4.6 Endorsement of Annual Accounts for year ended 31 December 2015

DG had circulated copies of the 2015 accounts which needed to be endorsed by the MC under the constitution. Firstly, the EBU Loughborough Juniors Weekend had been financed in 2015 from the Lottery Grant rather than our own funds so this has gone a significant way towards turning the previous year's deficit to the surplus now shown (£1827). Secondly, P2P had been treated differently for the 2015 accounts. The Income/Expenditure account figure for 2014 was the gross P2P receipts, i.e. before deducting the P2P the county had paid, whereas the 2015 figure was net. In previous years an arbitrary reduction from the event surpluses was made to reflect P2P paid by us on those events. In real terms the P2P we have received in 2015 is very much in line with the figure in previous years. MC Members endorsed the accounts as presented and AR and DG signed the master copy accordingly. DG would arrange for sufficient copies to be prepared for distribution at the AGM.

Action: DG

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5. Selectors' Report

The minutes of the last two Selectors' meetings had been circulated just before this meeting. The Selectors had suggested that in future players selected for the Tollemache be asked to contribute more to the expenses involved in sending a team to the event. The following extract from the minutes of the Selection Committee meeting of 11th December 2015 sets out what was proposed:

"In addition, the committee recognised that the SCCBA's funding has changed over the past few years and that in funding the Tollemache, this represents quite a hole in the county's annual budget at a time when funds are more limited. Accordingly, the Selection Committee will put forward a recommendation that in future the players be required to bear some of the cost of the event, as follows:

- *SCCBA to pay the entry fee.*
- *SCCBA to defray all expenses incurred by the npc.*
- *SCCBA to pay an allowance of £50 per player, from which they would pay all other expenses (travel, accommodation, food, etc.).*
- *If accepted, that these recommendations be reviewed on a regular basis."*

The Management Committee welcomed the proposals which represented an approximate saving of £50 per player when compared with the current arrangements and approved them unanimously. DW would inform the Chairman of the Selectors accordingly.

Action: DW

6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 Chairman's Cup – AR had concluded that this should remain as a biennial event which in future would bring together county event winners with the best of the younger players. The next event would be held in 2017.

6.2 Collaboration with other counties – Arrangements for a Café Bridge event similar to that experienced by RW and AR in Guildford were proceeding. This would take place on 13 September 2016 and there would be five cafés involved, all in the Hove area. There would be a target of 40 pairs, eight at each café. It would be a county event, with P2P applying and scored on smart phones. The model to be adopted had been used in several locations elsewhere with success. RW invited MC members to consider participation and to contribute to the 'word-of-mouth' advertising of the event.

Action: RW

6.3 Tournament Newsletter – RW had issued a second edition in February and this had also generated some interest. She would aim at issuing at least three editions per year in future.

6.4 Invitation Pairs – AG had now finalised the dates for 2016 and these had been published on the web and they would be fed into the Year Book preparations.

Action: AG

6.5 Mid Week Swiss Pairs – The date of this event had now been agreed as Wednesday 28 September 2016.

6.6 Competition Rules for 2016/17 - The revised rules had been circulated to MC Members and they were content. MP observed that the EBU L&E Committee was shortly to publish a set of protocols and rules for leagues. DW agreed to look out for these and to invite the Tournament Committee to consider them.

Action: DW

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 Appointments

- **MC Vacancies** – DW reported that he had received nominations for all four Officer posts and six of the ten MC posts allowed by the constitution. There was one other possible MC nomination. The closing date for nominations was 26 March 2016.

Action: DW

- **Other appointments 2016/17** – DW reported that all of the other appointments now had agreed nominations apart from the Welcome Pairs. This was previously part of the Spring Congress but had fallen by the wayside a couple of years ago through lack of interest. RW's concerted efforts to generate more interest in events for the less experienced included reincarnating this event if at all possible, perhaps within the Autumn Congress. An additional director would be needed as the event would need to run in parallel with one of the other events on either Saturday or Sunday.

Action: RW

7.3 AGM 2016 – DW reported that preparations were proceeding as normal. No members' resolutions had been received before the deadline laid down by the constitution.

7.4 Membership T&C 2016/17 – MC Members confirmed that they were content for the proposed T&C for 2016/17 to be submitted to the AGM 2016 for approval.

Action: DW

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7.5 Kremer Dersch – This event had been held at Eastbourne BC in 2015 and, normally would alternate to the home of the Old Barn BC in 2016. Unfortunately that club had announced its closure recently. AR noted that Eastbourne's Year Book return had indicated a willingness to hold the event in 2016 on 2 October. That first Sunday clashed with another, similar, teams' event in 2015 and MC Members were keen to avoid that in 2016 if possible. RW would discuss with Eastbourne whether they could hold it on 9 October. In parallel, she would also talk to West Sussex BC and Patcham BC about one or both of them becoming alternate locations for the event in future years.

Action: RW

7.6 Gladys Hakki 2015/16 – DW had circulated the two nominations received. The strengths of each were discussed and MC Members agreed that both were strong nominations. DW then invited MC Members to vote using a paper ballot with MP acting as an independent teller. Following completion of the ballot process, MP reported that the nomination in favour of Hazel Beveridge had attracted the most votes. DW would inform those who had submitted nominations accordingly.

Action: DW

7.7 Publication of County Services Statement – Some time ago, DW had produced a statement of services provided by the county to individual members and to clubs in response to a question about the value of the county P2P charge. Since then he had updated it annually but it had never been published more widely. MC Members felt that it should be shared more widely via the SCCBA Administration section on the web site. MW agreed to publish accordingly.

Action: MW

7.8 Year Book

DW referred to the concerns which had been expressed, particularly by Cecily Linfield of Thakeham BC, regarding what appeared to have been a very late change in the date for the Inter Clubs Team of Eight event. He had apologised to Mrs Linfield and promised an investigation. The latter had established that whilst the agreed processes for preparing and checking the Year Book content were fit for purpose, on this occasion, human error by several of those involved had created this problem. The change was actually known at the time of publication but was not picked up by anybody until five months later. GS observed that the background to the change had been the EBU's alteration of the timing of the National Pairs final in the previous year without consultation. For this year's YB, AR had incorporated yet more checks with clubs and organisers designed to reduce further the chance of this sort of mistake happening again. Preparation of copy for the 2016/17 YB was progressing well. Andrew Southwell's company had requested advertising space provided the YB would still be posted to all members. AR had quoted a price of £100 for this and MC Members confirmed that this annual issue to all members should continue.

Action: AR

8. EBU Matters

DW referred to the EBU AGM agenda item concerning proposals to dispense with Standing Committees, elected at each AGM, and to replace them with Board appointed sub-committees. The MC had discussed this proposal at its May 2015 meeting and agreed to support it. Subsequently the EBU Shareholders' Meeting had also endorsed the proposal. Whilst the proposed change had been passed, the majority achieved had been insufficient to implement the change. The EBU Board was now considering how to proceed and further proposals would be brought forward to the next Chairmen's and Shareholders' meetings.

9. Membership Secretary's Report

9.1 HB had reported that the county's membership total as of 17 March was 2926, 56 less than at the last meeting. There were now five dual members registered for 2015/16.

9.2 DW referred to previous discussions regarding the need to discover and register dual members. Guidance in relation to tournament organiser responsibilities and entry form standards had been strengthened in this respect. The entry form standards had recently been published and the organiser guidelines would be issued by RW subject to a final check by TC Members.

Action: RW

10. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

11. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

MW had documented the multiple actions he takes in support of tournaments and DW had added a reference to this documentation in the MC Jobs list.

12. Conduct Committee Report

Whilst there had been nothing to report from the Conduct Committee itself, DW had checked with its Chairman (Jill Armstrong) and her predecessor (Joy Mayall) regarding the work to implement the agreed policy on retention of CC case papers. This work was in hand and DW would check progress again before the next meeting.

Action: DW

13. Education Report

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13.1 Teaching at Schools/Clubs – AR reported that teaching was continuing at Collyer's and Farlington's under GS and at the Avenue. In addition, Ian Wright was now working at Brighton College.

13.2 JTI 2016 – The Loughborough event previously organised by the EBU had been cancelled for 2016. AR was keen to organise a similar event, aimed primarily at youngsters in the South of England, to fill the 'hole' created. He had formed a small working group and explored plans with Brighton University. The estimated overall cost was £7600 for an event which accommodated 32 children and 12 adults with the former charged £100 and the latter £150 to cover accommodation, meals, bridge and other events. The numbers provided for would generate £4400 income (after deduction of the costs of instructors) which added to sponsorship of £1500 and the lottery residue of £1880 would deliver a small surplus. AR was due to have a meeting with Bernie Eddleston of EBED shortly to explore whether the EBU education arm would be willing also to support the event and thereby further reduce the financial risk. In addition to the group of youngsters now attending Sussex Junior Bridge Festivals, AR had received interest from Oxfordshire and he planned to speak to contacts in Kent and Surrey. AR invited MC Members to agree to the outline proposals in principle subject to EBED support and the final costings showing a financial outcome broadly in line with the initial estimates. MC Members agreed.

Action: AR

13.3 Sussex Junior Bridge Festivals – Following the success of the first festival in August 2015, another event had been held in February 2016. It took place at the Avenue BC and 25 youngsters had attended. As reported at paragraph 4.5 above, the event had been funded by the lottery allocation. A third event was being planned for the Summer.

Action: AR

13.4 Joint Initiative with Sussex Junior Chess(SJC) – Following AR and GS's attendance at an SJC training day a small number of chess-playing youngsters were now playing bridge and one bridge playing youngster was playing chess. AR planned to attend further SJC training days.

Action: AR

14. Charities

Following the choices made at the November 2015 meeting (for 2016 and 2017), there was nothing further to report.

15. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

15.1 MWr referred to recent comments made concerning the location of the county equipment store. There was a need to strike a balance between convenience and cost. Whatever location was chosen there would be mixed views from organisers about convenience dependent on their own location. He felt the present arrangement struck the right balance. MC Members agreed.

15.2 Regarding the three trophies which were almost full with winner entries, MWr recommended that the trophy which required more space immediately should be mounted on a new, larger base. MC Members agreed and were content to delegate to MWr authority to choose the most sensible option(s) for the other trophies in future.

Action: MWr

15.3 Following comments that some of the county's stock of bidding and playing cards might need to be replaced, MWr showed examples of those currently in use. MC Members agreed that whilst the examples shown were not perfect they were reasonably serviceable. MWr said that he would increase the rotation of use to ensure that all of the stock was used evenly.

Action: MWr

16. Dates of Next Meetings

DW indicated that the next meeting would be at 7pm on Friday 6 May 2016 (at Worthing).

Action: DW

17. Any Other Business

17.1 Sussex Pairs Final – RW reported that there had been problems with the movement used for this event and difficulties with compatibility between the Bridgemates and computer used. DW referred to the responsibility for ensuring compatibility which rested with the county's IT Asset Manager. RW agreed to speak with Brian Gould and Ron Robins to establish what lessons might be learned from the problems encountered.

Action: RW

The meeting closed at 9.25pm