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# SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA took place at Patcham Community Centre on Thursday 19 July 2012 starting at 7 pm

### Present:

Mr M Pool	President
Mrs J Mayall	Chairman
Mr G Stanford	Vice-Chairman & Tournament Manager
Mr D Galpin	Hon Treasurer
Mr D Wheeler	Hon Secretary
Mr E Williams	Membership Secretary

Mr D Armstrong, Mr P Bates, Dr H Beveridge, Mr D Ellis, Mrs A Galpin, Mr N Hardy, Mrs H Kent, Mr R Lowe, Mr J Williams and Mr M Wotton.

Mrs J Armstrong and Mr P Gannon also attended as delegates for Old Barn Way BC and Lewes BC respectively. Mr R Roberts attended as a personal observer.

## AGENDA

### 0. Opening Remarks

JM welcomed MC Members to the meeting and reported that, sadly, Julia Simpson's Mother had died recently and MC Members indicated that they wished to express their condolences for Julia's loss. In addition, JM reported that Jackie Clinton was in hospital again but the reason was thought to be straightforward and she expected her to return home soon.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mrs J Clinton, Miss J Simpson, Mr A Southwell and Mrs C Watson.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012

#### 2.1 Accuracy

2.1.1 MC Members had no comments on the draft which had been circulated and the Chairman indicated that she would sign the minutes as a true record.

#### 2.2 Matters Arising –

##### (a) Carried forward from Meeting 10 May 2012

1. **Actions attached to Items 5.1, 9.2, and 19.1 have been completed. The actions related to Items 2.2.4, 12.1 and 12.2 are not yet due and will be carried forward to the October meeting.**

2. **Item 2.2.2 License arrangements for BB and VP events.**

The Tournament Committee (TC) had recommended that Level 2 or Simple Systems should be adopted for these events and that a stock of a related 'tick-box convention cards be made available to Directors. A sample of the latter was circulated to MC Members and it was pointed out that opening leads needed to be added. Members were invited to provide any further comments to GS and EW so that they could be taken into account before production of the initial stock.

**Action – MC Members and GS/EW**

3. **Item 2.2.5 Search for Sponsors**

RL reported that as he was against the production of a paper calendar for all members, believing that web publication and paper issue to Clubs was sufficient, he had not seen any purpose in the pursuit of advertisers within the calendar. DW agreed to add an item to the October MC meeting agenda to allow a discussion of the case for continuing the issue of a calendar and newsletters to all members. RL was invited to provide a paper arguing against continuation and other Members were invited to arrange for another paper to present the case for continuation.

**Action – RL/MC Members**

HK reported that she had had difficulties in understanding what level of support might be sought from sponsors and advertisers but following advice from other MC

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Members she was now clearer. In light of RL's initiative above, however, she would defer further action until after the October meeting.

### **4. Item 5.2 Appointments and Organisers**

DW reported that GS had agreed with Peter Langston that the latter would not be a member of the TC. EW's omission from the TC list had been corrected and DE was now the Organiser of the David Pavey in place of GS. DW would apply these changes and the final list would be issued in due course. MC Members agreed.

**Action - DW**

### **5. Item 16.2 Review Of Constitution**

JM reminded MC Members of the sub-group now in place for this work, thanked JA and her colleagues for their commitment to it and invited JA to provide an update of progress. JA indicated that the sub-group had reached a point where it needed further advice from the MC on the lines to take for a number of issues. She had documented these and DW said that, in the first instance, the Officers would discuss responses to the questions posed and produce a composite reply with a view to enabling a first draft of the revised Constitution to be presented to the October MC meeting. Thereafter, it would be necessary not only to achieve full support for the revisions at the MC but also to obtain EBU approval before the changes were put to the AGM in April 2013.

**Action - DW**

### **6. Item 18 Publicity for Charitable Donations**

DG reported that on this occasion the donations had been made by letter and without any attendant publicity. The use of the latter would be considered again in 2013.

### **7. Item 20.2.1 Reminder re Trophy Receipts**

GS agreed to write to all Organisers and Directors reminding them of the importance of ensuring receipts are obtained for all trophies awarded.

**Action - GS**

### **8. Item 20.2.2 Gladys Hakki – Memento for Winners**

DW reported that the officers had discussed this and he had agreed to research the costs of a small 'replica' carriage clock being given to participants. MC Members had mixed views of the merits of the introduction of a permanent memento. Would it be only for future recipients? How would we maintain consistency between the mementos given from year to year? Could we give something that would be attractive to ALL recipients? Should we give a memento to all living past recipients? An alternative approach might be to develop a prominent Roll of Honour on the web site rather than a memento. JM invited views on this latter suggestion and a majority of MC Members thought that this would be a better way forward. MW agreed to explore how the Roll of Honour might be created and DW agreed to seek advice from JS as to the whereabouts of the Roll of Honour Book.

**Action – MW/DW**

### **9. Item 20.2.3 Engraving Costs**

JA reported that she and Julian Mitchell had used a local (Hove) source at what looked like very competitive prices. She offered to use that source for County engraving if trophies could be sent to her. That might not be practical or cost effective in some cases but HK agreed to amend related documentation to advise those who needed to obtain engraving always to seek the best value for money.

**Action - HK**

**(b) From Meeting 24 May 2012 – These would be picked up under items 4 and 5 below**

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

JM indicated that most of her time since the last meeting had been focused on issues which would be dealt with under later agenda items. She had, however, established that, provided the Association remained committed within its constitution to EBU By-laws, rules and policies, the latter covered the general issue of dealing with conflicts of interest and there would be no need to have additional, specific coverage in our revised constitution beyond that already there to deal with Conduct and Discipline.

## **4. Proposals for SCCBA Storage HQ**

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**4.1** GS reported that the possible West Sussex BC (WSBC) proposal had been postponed for at least a year. Adequate funding was no longer available to the Warden Park School so WSBC's proposals were no longer being pursued pro tem.

**4.2** A proposal dealing with the County's storage requirements was expected from the Adur Indoor Bowling Club in the near future. Drawings had been prepared and quotes were being obtained. The HQ sub-group would consider this in due course. In addition, DG undertook to clarify the insurance position regarding the County's equipment in relation to its current storage location.

**Action – GS/DG**

### **5. League Team Survey**

**5.1** JM reminded MC Members of the background to the survey and thanked DW for his work in collating and analysing the results and preparing the paper which was now before the MC. She also reported that there had been much feedback from Team Captains about how much they appreciated the hard work of DG in running the League over so many years. DG added that he too appreciated all of the help he had received in handling what had become a demanding issue.

**5.2** JM clarified that it was for the MC now to decide on the way forward and she invited Members to give their views in turn:

- DA said that he was fully in agreement with the observations made in the paper.
- RL said that reverting to the arrangements which were in place for 2012/13 and previous years looked like the way to go but he remained concerned about the vote at the 2012 AGM. JM reminded him that it had been made very clear at the time that that vote would not be binding on the MC. RL therefore agreed to the reversion.
- DE informed the meeting that he had not had time to read the analysis before the meeting but he thought that the pursuit of consistency via the 2011 AGM vote was meant to lead to 2 up/2 down for all divisions and he remained uncomfortable about supporting reversion to the 2011/12 position. GS reminded him that that was not how the 2011 proposal had been worded.
- JW reminded MC Members of the argument delivered by Julian Mitchell regarding the value of 1 up/1down for divisions 1 and 2 which he believed had been seen as very persuasive by many AGM attendees. That argument was still valid and was important support for the reversion option now being considered.
- JA indicated that she was in favour of returning to the status quo.
- PG was still puzzled as to the lack of consistency between one part of the league and the others.
- NH said that he was in favour of returning to the status quo.
- EW and GS both indicated their support for reversion as the way forward most likely to satisfy the needs of the majority of league participants than any alternative.
- PB was clear that methods of league organisation were not constitutional issues. It should be for the Organiser in consultation with Teams to decide and that was what the MC had now done. He agreed with the analysis in the paper and accordingly favoured reversion.
- HK favoured reversion, declaring that that decision would be likely to upset fewer league participants.
- MP agreed indicating that the MC had a duty to meet the needs of as many league participants as possible.
- AG and DG indicated their support for reversion and JW clarified that he too favoured this way forward.
- RR said that he had no personal view about the way forward but he believed that it had been right to consult on the issue and the MC should now decide on the basis of the results of that consultation.
- DE added that he wondered whether the different arrangements between divisions 1 and 2 had dissuaded some from entering the league because they perceived it to be too difficult to rise to the top.

**5.3** JM asked whether the possibility of a play-off had attracted support. DW replied that of those that had voted for change a small majority (9-8) voted against play-offs. Looking at the overall picture and taking into account those who had voted to revert to the previous

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arrangements and therefore not in favour of playoffs, in divisions 1 & 2 the votes were effectively 6-4 against and, in divisions 3-7, 22-4 against.

**5.4** JM indicated that unless there were any further comments Members wished to make, she would put the matter to a vote. MC Members indicated no further comments and a proposal was made by JM, in accordance with the majority view of Team Captains surveyed, for reversion to the 2011/12 arrangements, seconded by DW. The vote then taken was 15 for, 1 against and no abstentions. JM thanked MC Members for what she saw as a very clear and decisive result. She would arrange for the decision to be communicated to Team Captains as soon as possible.

**Action – JM**

**5.5** DA took the opportunity of the League discussion to question whether the rules of all competitions were sufficiently well documented to protect Organisers from challenge when they were acting in good faith and within the bounds of discretion afforded to them. GS indicated that the TC would look at this.

**Action – GS**

## 6. Treasurer's Report

**6.1** DG reported current balances of £8676 (current account) and £22739 (deposit account). These totals excluded the costs of the recent calendar/newsletter issue (approx £3000) which had yet to be finalised. The real current account balance was therefore nearer to £5600.

**6.2** Charity donations of £535 each had been made to the Impact Foundation and Age Concern. The recent Ardingly event had achieved an 'on budget' surplus of £1300. P2P receipts for the current year were slightly down on 2011 but it was too early to predict the full year's outturn. DG would have more meaningful figures at the October meeting.

**6.3** The County annual financial reports for 2010 and 2011 had now been published on the web site.

## 7. Selectors' Report

**7.1** DG reported that the Selection Committee had met twice since the last MC meeting. The first meeting had identified potential Metropolitan Cup players and set in hand action to check on availability. The second had picked the Metropolitan Cup team and had initiated enquiries regarding the Tollemache, the team for which would be picked at the September meeting. Copies of the minutes of both meetings had been sent to MC Members.

**7.2** DG was also pleased to report that the Metropolitan Cup 'C' team had won their inter-county event, retaining the trophy won in 2011.

## 8. Tournament Committee Report

### 8.1 Directors' required skills – Progress

**8.1.1** EW reported that he and MP were organising a County Directors day in the autumn of 2012 (date yet to be finalised). This would be used to review with Directors the changes which are expected in the new Orange and White EBU Books to be introduced next month.

**8.1.2** DA noted that he still had not received what he would see as an adequate explanation for his exclusion from the County Directors list in 2011. He could see no reason why he should not be reinstated. DE expressed support for that. JM and GS undertook to review the matter and communicate further with DA in due course. In response to speculation about the EBU's attitude to what might be seen as a lack of transparency, MP observed that in his opinion it was nothing to do with the EBU and in any case they would not be worried by the SCCBA actions. MP also gave some examples of areas where full reporting including names of those concerned was not included and indicated that this was normal business practice and not 'a lack of transparency'. MP suggested that the SCCBA TD list was in his view one of those areas.

**Action – JM/GS**

### 8.2 Open/Closed Events and Dual Membership/Borderers

**8.2.1** GS reported that the TC had recommended that the County's blue pointed, and therefore open, events for 2013 should be the New Year Swiss Teams, the Spring Swiss Pairs, the Mid-week Swiss Pairs and the Autumn Swiss Teams. MC Members agreed.

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**8.2.2 DW** reported that the current ambiguities related to Dual Members and Borderers would be cleared up within the review of the Constitution.

### **8.3 Tournament Manager's Report**

**8.3.1 Henfield Candles** GS reported that this event had been relatively successful in 2012 and it remained a Henfield event. The TC did not see that there was the scope for it to be a County event in future and, if Henfield wished still to relinquish their hosting role, another Club might be approached to become host. It could be a Club Blue Pointed event in 2013 or subsequent years.

**8.3.2 Mixed Heats** GS reported that the TC had recommended that these would be continued for at least another year. MC Members agreed.

**8.3.3 BB Events** GS reported that the TC had recommended that future BB Events should be stratified at three levels with prizes at all levels in order further to encourage the less experienced players. MC Members agreed.

**8.3.4 Invitation Pairs** PB reported hearing comment that this event appeared elitist to the outsider and suggested that the TC should consider publishing how the competition works to improve understanding.

**Action - GS**

### **9. Secretary's Report**

**9.1 Calendar Amendments** DW reported that following issue of the 2012/13 Calendar he had already fielded a number of amendments. He invited MC Members to let him have any other amendments by 31 July for inclusion in an e-mail issue to all Clubs.

**Action - MC Members/DW**

**9.2 Dimmie Fleming Nominations** Three nominations had been received and MC Members agreed that all should be endorsed and forwarded to the EBU.

**Action - DW**

**9.3 Life Member Benefits** DW reported that whilst the previous award (free annual subscription) needed to be replaced following the introduction of P2P and this would be covered in the review of the Constitution, the Officers had recommended that the County's only living Life Member should be awarded immediate free entry to as many of the County's future Spring and Autumn Congress events as she wished. MC Members agreed. This award would be without prejudice to the outcome of the review of the Constitution and would not apply to partners. JM would write to her accordingly.

**Action - JM**

### **10. EBU Matters**

DW had circulated copies of the most recent newsletter from Barbara Herold (EBU RCC) and a note of the main points arising at a recent EBU Chairmen's Conference. He was happy to field/pass on any comments thereto. The Chairmen's Conference had concentrated on the EBU's progress towards registration as a Charity. Chairmen had also been asked to place a link to the EBU's future events page on County web sites and DW sought agreement to that. MC Members agreed. MW would implement accordingly.

**Action - MW**

### **11. Membership Secretary's Report**

**11.1 Status of Non-Club Members** EW reported recent difficulties over players who had been registered with the EBU following a Club session but had yet to join a Club. Were they Members or not? After a brief discussion, EW undertook to pursue the EBU further in order to clarify matters.

**Action - EW**

**11.2 Communications with Members by E-mail** DW referred to the draft protocol which had been circulated to MC Members. MC Members agreed that the protocol should be adopted and EW and HB undertook to develop a first draft outline strategy for consideration at the next meeting.

**Action – EW/HB**

### **12. Newsletter Editor's Report**

JM noted that there had been some difficulty over the sufficiency of supply of the recent issue but action was in hand to ensure that all who wished to receive a copy did so.

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### 13. Communication Officer's Report

There was nothing to report.

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

MW reported that, although MC Members had agreed to the introduction of a Members Only area on the County web site, the facility had been little used since its introduction. It was a potentially useful facility, eg to support discussion groups, and he encouraged MC Members to explore it further.

### 15. Conduct Committee Report

JM reported that there were no current conduct issues requiring attention although the Committee were looking into a request for help from a Club over a possible appeal. JM also reported that Geoffrey Wolfarth had agreed to act as the County's Pro Bono legal adviser. He was accessible via JM if needed.

### 16. Education Report

DA reported that a sub-group had been created involving himself, JM, HB, Sandra Landy and Linda Souter. One meeting had been held and a note produced which had been copied to MC Members. A further meeting was planned for 30 July at which the results of a Teaching Questionnaire issued to Clubs would be considered. Not all the questionnaires issued had yet been returned yet. DA introduced a possible separate web site, based on one used successfully by another County, which might be used as the communications 'front-end' of the Sussex Education strategy. MC Members were generally supportive of this. There was a need for funding, via sponsorship if possible, and the sub-group recognised the importance of establishing measurable success criteria. Peter Langston had been asked to produce a business plan and DA would present this to the MC in due course..

**Action - DA**

### 17. Mentoring

JM reported that both the Education and Mentoring groups recognised the importance of consistency between the approaches in those areas. Accordingly, the Mentoring sub-group would attend the Education sub-group's meeting on 30 July. DA emphasised that the approaches taken by Mentors must be consistent with those taken by Teachers.

### 18. Charities

There was nothing further to report beyond that in paragraph 6.2 above.

### 19. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on Thursday 11 October at Old Barn Way. DA and JA undertook to make the necessary arrangements.

**Action DA/JA**

### 20. Any Other Business

**20.1 New Events** DW sought formal approval of the Golf/Bridge day which had been endorsed by the Officers. MC Members agreed.

**20.2 Kremer Dersch** GS reported that he had found it impossible to agree on a revised date which met the needs of Eastbourne BC and the Officers. The latter had to be present if the primary purpose of the event was still to be achieved. MC Members agreed that in all the circumstances a return to the original date (23 September) at a different venue should now be planned. DA agreed to explore the possibility of Old Barn Way being that venue. DW observed that he would be looking for eight players to make up the MC teams for the event and he invited those who wished to be considered to let him know.

**Action – DA/DW**

**The meeting closed at 10.10pm**