

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 20 November 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: Mr P Bates (PB), Mrs H Beveridge (HB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr G Stanford (GS), Mrs R Wolfarth (RW), Mr M Wotton (MW) and Mr M Wright (MWrr).

Mr J Hardy (JH) also attended in anticipation of item 7.2.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr M Pool (MP).

2. Minutes of the meeting of 17th July 2015

2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as drafted.

2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 5, 6.3, 6.4, 6.11, 7.1, 8.1, 12, 16 and 17 had been completed. Other actions from items 6.1, 6.5, 6.7, 7.2, 7.4, 8.2, 9.2, 9.3, 13.1 and 13.3 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 £9514 (current account), £795 (competitions account) and £23175 (deposit account). The major reduction in the latter reflected spending on youth bridge activities as planned. A small residue of the lottery funding remained and AR reported that the Big Lottery Fund had agreed that this could be retained by the Association in support of further youth work. The current account balance reflected the position after payment of a donation of £250 to the Shoreham Air Disaster Fund. This amount was made up of donations collected at the Autumn Congress and a personal donation from DW. DG had rounded up (by £32) to £250 and now sought MC approval for this. The MC agreed.

4.2 Helen Kent had reported some difficulties with use of the on-line entry system for the East Grinstead Basic Bridge event and these were being investigated by MW and his Bridgewebs contact.

5. Selectors' Report

The minutes of the last Selectors' meeting had been circulated after the last MC meeting. More recently, in regard to previous discussion at the Tournament Committee about strengthening the county's Tollemache performance, it had been suggested that consideration be given to those younger players now playing in the Premier League and representing England at under 20 and under 25 levels. DW had passed these comments to Julian Mitchell. GS observed that the regular partners of the younger players in question were not Sussex players and this might reduce their potential value to future Sussex Tollemache teams.

6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 Timing of Green Point and Congress Events – DW reported that following positive feedback from several events in 2015, the TC had decided to retain the 11am start for all green point and congress events apart from the Spring Congress Sunday which would continue to start at 1pm in order to accommodate the AGM at 11.30am.

6.2 Director Training – DW reported that an update course for county TDs had been held although not all were able to attend.

[Post Meeting Note – Checks have now confirmed that after further discussion (with various people) the Chief Tournament Director had decided that there was not enough material to make the County director's day planned for 2015 worthwhile. The relatively small amount of change had been communicated by e-mail]

An update course for Club TDs, fully subsidised by the county, had been held in August at Eastbourne.

6.3 Chairman's Cup – This event had been held under the old basis on 8 November at Avenue BC. AR would now give detailed thought to the basis and frequency of future events. This would include the

FINAL

possibility of an event which brought together county event winners with the best of the younger players.

Action: AR

6.4 Collaboration with other counties – Other pressures had prevented RW from making further progress on this front. However, she and AR had attended the Guildford Café Bridge event and had enjoyed it very much. Around 160 players had been involved at a cost of £35 per player including lunch. She felt that there would be scope to organise a similar event in the Hove area and she was in contact with several cafés and restaurants. The Guildford organiser had offered to help and if an event in Hove was a success, RW felt that Chichester might also be a good location for such an event.

Action: RW

6.5 Tournament Newsletter – RW had issued the first edition of this new publication via the web. In order to contribute to efforts to increase interest in county events, the MC agreed that future editions should be issued also via e-mail using HB's mailing list.

Action: RW/HB

6.6 Invitation Pairs – AG had recently cleared lines with the TC on proposed dates for 2016 and was now in discussion with host clubs. The final list would be published in due course.

Action: AG

6.7 Blue Point Events – In light of the reduced interest in the Autumn Congress, the TC had decided to reallocate its two licences to the more popular Henfield Candles (now a county event) and the Mid Week Swiss Pairs. The MC endorsed this decision.

6.8 Mid Week Swiss Pairs – HB observed that this year's event had been held on a Tuesday (rather than the Wednesday of previous years) and enquired whether it would revert to Wednesday in 2016. DW felt that reversion to Wednesday was likely. PB said that he, RW and Joy Mayall (event organiser) were negotiating with those concerned and a final decision would be taken soon.

Action: PB/RW

6.9 Trophies for Sussex League Divisions 3, 4 and 5 - DG reported that the new trophies donated by Tim Greenhill had been purchased and engraved ready to be awarded to the 2015/16 winners. Tim had seen the trophies selected and was content.

6.10 Entry Form Standards – An updated version of these standards would be issued shortly to all concerned.

Action: RW

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 Year Book 2015/16 – DW reported that a note of the amendments submitted since publication had been sent to clubs on 13 September.

7.2 Appointments

- **New Treasurer for 2016/17** – DW had circulated a note proposing the co-option of John Hardy in anticipation of his nomination for the Treasurer's post at the next AGM. The MC approved the co-option unanimously.
- **New IE for 2015/16** – Following discussions with AG and DG, Ron James (RJ) of Thakeham BC had volunteered to become the Association's Independent Examiner for 2015/16. The MC approved this appointment unanimously. DG was already in discussion with RJ over the timetable for the approval of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015. DW would e-mail RJ to inform him of the MC's decision.
- **MC Vacancies** – JH's appointment had reduced the number of vacancies temporarily but in the longer term there would still be three vacancies. MWR's brother (Ian), a member of the AR's youth bridge working group, had suggested a possible new MC member and DW had been in touch with him. He would report further at the next meeting.

Action: DW

- **Other appointments 2016/17** – DW reported that following the withdrawal of the organiser of three tournaments events – the Autumn Congress, the Inter Clubs Teams of Eight and the Venture Pairs – there would be three vacancies to fill for 2016. GS volunteered to take on the Teams of Eight and DW said he would seek to persuade Worthing BC to become the new host of the VP. WBC's membership now contained a significant proportion of less experienced players (prompting him to seek approval for a David Pavey heat to be held there next year) and the players in question might also be attracted to the VP if it was hosted on their 'home ground'. DW asked for ideas regarding the AC to reach him as soon as possible.

Action: DW

7.3 AGM 2016 – Agenda & other papers – DW had circulated a draft agenda and other papers (role of MC + Annex and MC Nomination/Application form). The MC agreed these as drafted.

7.4 Approval of Accounts – Future Process – DW rehearsed the process required by the 2013 constitution and confirmed that the 2015 accounts would be presented to the MC for endorsement at its March 2016 meeting prior to submission to the AGM 2016 for approval.

Action: DG/DW

7.5 Membership T&C 2016/17 – DW had circulated the proposed T&C for 2016/17. There were no changes to those approved for 2015/16. The MC endorsed the proposals. They would now be submitted to the AGM 2016 for approval.

FINAL

Action: DW

7.6 Kremer Dersch – Ten teams had contested this event. The county teams had finished first and third with Wilton BC finishing second and winning the KD trophy. The number of clubs involved had been affected by competing events and the MC agreed that the first Sunday in the month should be avoided next year. RW felt that the Eastbourne location might have deterred some clubs in the west of the county. The current policy was to alternate between Eastbourne and the AIBC but RW agreed to consider basing the event more centrally in future.

Action: RW

7.7 Gladys Hakki 2015/16 – DW had circulated the draft invitation for nominations. The MC agreed the invitation as drafted and DW would issue it next month.

Action: DW

8. EBU Matters

8.1 Dimmie Fleming Award 2015 – MC Members were aware of the success of the nomination for DG. He had decided to receive his award at the next AGM to coincide with his retirement from the Treasurer's role. The EBU had sought a photograph for publication and DG had now supplied this.

8.2 EBU AGM – None of the county's EBU shareholders were able to attend this year but MP had kindly agreed to act as proxy. DW referred to the agenda and to the possibility of contention regarding proposals to dispense with Standing Committees, elected at each AGM, and replace them with Board appointed sub-committees. Current members of the Selection Committee had expressed concerns. The MC had discussed this proposal at its last meeting and agreed to support it. Subsequently the EBU Shareholders' Meeting had also endorsed the proposal. The county shareholders had assessed the arguments now presented (against the proposals) and found them unpersuasive and there were no grounds for re-visiting the MC's original decision.

8.3 EBU Logo – The EBU were keen that its logo should appear on county web sites. After discussion between the Officers and MW, it had been agreed to place the EBU county logo on the right hand side of the web site heading in a less prominent position than the Sussex logo. This approach was consistent with that taken by the majority of other county web sites.

9. Membership Secretary's Report

9.1 HB reported that the county's membership total as of 20 November was 2982, 15 less than at the last meeting. There were three dual members registered for 2015/16.

9.2 HB referred to previous discussions regarding the need to discover and register dual members. Whilst the latter were potentially bona fide members, contributing through their pay to play at Sussex clubs, they were not members and did not receive any benefits (Year Book, etc) if they were not registered. They did not appear on the membership lists issued by the EBU because the latter were sorted by county of allegiance. MW referred to discussions three years ago, in the run up to the approval of the new constitution, where he had argued that the proposed section on membership would create these problems. However, his objections were not accepted by the rest of the MC at the time. MW added that a recent event for SCCBA members only had been won by a pair which included a player who was not an SCCBA member and if the MC failed to act on this it ran the risk of receiving complaints about player eligibility in the future. DW agreed to research the earlier MC discussions and the relevant section of the constitution and bring further recommendations to the next meeting. Those recommendations might include encouraging clubs to identify potential county dual members amongst their club membership lists.

Action: DW

10. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

11. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

11.1 Licensing & Master Points Handbook - MW reported that the September 1st version of the L&MPH quite clearly indicated that the heats of our county events were no longer to be considered as part of our county events for master point purposes, resulting in lower awards in the heats and in the final. The EBU's primary contact regarding master point issues confirmed this to MW by email. MP subsequently ascertained via the EBU's leading master point expert that there had been a misunderstanding. Consequently, county heats will remain as part of our county events for master point purposes and, therefore, awards for heats and final will remain as they were.

11.2 Entry Requirements and MP scales – Revised versions of these documents had recently been agreed by the TC and published on the web site. They would be updated annually and issued to all tournament organisers.

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.

FINAL

Action: DW

13. Education Report

13.1 Teaching at Schools/Clubs – AR reported that teaching was continuing at Collyer's and Christ's Hospital under GS and at the Avenue. At the latter there was now a group of ten youngsters aged from 7 to 14. In addition, Ian Wright was working with Brighton & Hove High School and Brighton College to establish training streams there. GS was hoping to add Farlington (Horsham) to the list and Lewes Old Grammar was another possibility. Under an initiative led by the EBU, AR would be accompanying a group of the youngsters currently under tuition to the Houses of Parliament shortly where they would play mini bridge against and have tea with several Members of the House of Lords. AR had sent a press release to Sussex media contacts and this might generate further useful publicity for the county's youth activities.

Action: AR/GS

13.2 Expanded entry to EBU Loughborough JTI – Efforts to expand our entry to this event had been successful with 22 attending, an increase of more than 50% on 2014.

13.3 Sussex Junior Bridge Festivals – Following the success of the first festival in August, plans for another event in February 2016 were now being fleshed out. It would take place at the Avenue BC and flyers and advertising were being prepared. AR aimed to hold two festivals per year in future. In response to a question from DG, he recognised that budgets for these on-going activities would need to be approved once the residue of the BLF funds had been used. The latter was sufficient for the February event and he would come to the next meeting with proposals for subsequent events. DW observed that given the relative health of the reserves, the MC might wish to invest some in these activities in order to postpone the need for consideration of an increase in the P2P rate. DG commented that the latter was set for 2016/17 but might need to be reviewed for 2017/18.

Action: AR

13.4 Report back to the BLF – AR had completed the required proforma and the BLF had approved the retention of the remainder of the funding allocation to support the further activities now being planned.

13.5 Joint Initiative with Sussex Junior Chess(SJC) – AR reported that he and GS had attended an SJC training day attended by 80-100 youngsters. It was a very professional and well organised event. SJC holds either a training day or a Grand Prix tournament every month. The GP events involve each child playing six matches and parents are very actively involved. AR planned to set up an SCCBA stall at SJC's events in December (Horsham) and January (Brighton).

Action: AR

14. Charities

PB reminded MC colleagues that the provisional choice of charities for 2016 had already been made at a previous meeting. These were Pericles, West Hoathly, nominated by MP and the Oyster Project, Lewes, nominated by Peter Gannon. The most recent trawl for nominations had prompted five further suggestions: St Catherine's Hospice (Horsham), Sussex Air Ambulance, the South Downs Society (Pulborough), Ingfield School for Parents (Horsham) and St Michael's Hospice (St Leonards). The first two had benefitted in the past and, arguably, a previous donation to the Sussex Wildlife Trust addressed a similar area as the South Downs Society. Therefore PB recommended that Ingfield School for Parents and St Michael's Hospice be chosen for 2017. The MC agreed.

15. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

MW reported that three trophies were almost full with winner entries. He would explore options to create more space and bring forward proposals at the next meeting,

Action: MW

16. Dates of Next Meetings

DW indicated that the next meeting would be at 7pm on 11 March 2016 (at Worthing).

Action: DW

17. Any Other Business

17.1 IT Asset Management – Additional Equipment – DW reported that the actual cost of the new Bridgemates had exceeded the level approved at the last meeting by £84. This took the overall cost above £500, the limit of the Treasurer's personal authority. The additional cost arose because the discount previously thought to be available had not materialised. The MC approved the revised expenditure.

17.2 Adoption of Henfield Candles as a county event – MW observed that, whilst the TC had agreed to the adoption of the Henfield Candles as a county event, the approval of the MC was also required to complete the adoption process. The MC approved.

The meeting closed at 9.11pm