

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 22 July 2016 starting at 7 pm

Present:

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|---------------------|---------------|
| Mr M Pool | President |
| Mrs R Wolfarth (RW) | Vice-Chairman |
| Mr J Hardy (JH) | Hon Treasurer |
| Mr D Wheeler (DW) | Hon Secretary |

And other elected members: Mr P Bates (PB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr D Galpin (DG) and Mr M Wotton (MW).

Mr G Wolfarth (GW) also attended as Press Officer and to contribute to items 7, 8 and 12.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs H Beveridge (HB), Mr A Ryder (AR) and Mr M Wright (MW). With the agreement of MC Members present, DW took the chair.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 6th May 2016

2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as drafted.

2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 7.3 and 16 had been completed. Other actions from items 5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.2, 7.4, 7.5, 13.2, 17.1 and 17.3 would be picked up under the relevant items below.

3. Chairman's Report

AR had reported by email to DW 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 JH circulated copies of the accounts to 30 June which showed the latest financial balances of £14645 (current accounts, including the competitions account) and £23253 (deposit account). The overall position for the year's activities to date showed a loss of £1109 but he expected this to become a modest surplus by the end of the accounting year as the whole of the year book expenditure had been incurred during the first six months. Since the end of June a further sum of £5000 had been added to the funds reserved for youth activities following the very generous and kind donation by Vivian Friday (see also paragraph 13.3 below). JH also circulated copies of a summary of tournament returns. The overall position there was also positive.

4.2 RW asked about the agreed processes for authorising invoices to be presented for payment. A misunderstanding had arisen regarding the Henfield Candles event regarding additional costs as a result of a presumption of prior knowledge. DW agreed to tighten the organiser guidelines to make clear that all contributing to the organisation of an event must clarify to the official organiser the various different items of expenditure for which invoices will be expected.

Action: DW

4.3 Following a request from DG to increase the prizes paid to Sussex League winners after very many years at the same level, JH had reviewed the overall position and found that, generally, around 15% of receipts was given in prizes for Sussex events. The Championship Teams gave somewhat more (as the county's premier event) and the Sussex League somewhat less. The MC agreed to DG's request that League prizes be raised to £30 for the winners of division 1 and £25 for the winners of each of the other divisions.

Action: DG

5. Selectors' Report

There was nothing to report under this item.

6. Tournament Committee Report

6.1 Café Bridge – RW reported that preparations were continuing for a 40 pair event in the Hove area on 13 September. She had produced a draft flyer and was in touch with other counties to explore interest there. Initially there had been a lot of interest resulting in eight pairs signing up but this flow had dried up more recently. She urged MC Members who were planning to play to sign up as soon as possible.

Action: RW

6.2 Competition Rules 2016/17 – The anticipated EBU 'Protocols for League competitions' had not yet appeared. MP observed that they might have been published on the web site without 'fanfare'. DW would check and report back.

Action: DW

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6.3 Organiser Guidelines – DW confirmed that these had been issued but following paragraph 4.2 above, they would be re-issued as soon as possible.

Action: DW

6.4 Ensuring accurate scoring and correct use of bridgemates in county events – A number of problems in recent months had arisen because of inconsistencies between Bridgemates and the Laptop PC being used. DW reminded MC Members of the agreed processes in place to ensure consistency and agreed to email all organisers and TDs to reiterate them.

Action: DW

6.5 Restarting Sussex/Surrey Matches – PB reported that this idea had emanated from Surrey's new President. It had been Surrey which decided to discontinue the matches and it was now with them to decide whether they wished to restart them.

6.6 Future of Metropolitan Cup – This was thought to have been transferred to Surrey for 2015 et seq. In fact it had been run by Steve Foster as an individual in 2015 and he was no longer available. Surrey did not have any resource to take over so the event would not now take place in 2016. The MC agreed that it should take a watching brief to see whether any other county felt sufficiently enthusiastic to take over the running of the event.

6.7 Duplimate Machines – DW had circulated a paper regarding the enquiry from Toby Musk (TM) about what he had seen as a machine surplus to the county's requirements. The TC had considered this and the paper reflected their views. The MC agreed that the reserve machine should be retained and that Eddie Williams's kind offer to overhaul it free of charge should be taken up. DW would inform TM and EW accordingly.

Action: DW

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 Timing of future AGMs – DW had circulated a paper on this which recommended that the timing of future AGMs be left as is for the time being. There had not been a great deal of extra effort and time required to organise the EGM needed and he was content with the status quo. MP commented that if abortion of AGMs became a regular occurrence, the MC may wish to consider seeking to amend the constitution to reduce the quorum required.

7.2 Appointments 2016/17 – DW reported that all posts were currently filled but the MC should bear two points in mind. First, a number of volunteers were organising multiple tournaments and it would help to be able to spread the load a bit more. If MC Members were aware of anybody else who might be persuaded to become an organiser, they should alert DW accordingly. Second, the Golf/Bridge day organiser, Fran Thornton, had indicated that she did not intend to organise again in 2017. An additional organiser would be needed for that event in due course.

7.3 Location of Kremer Dersch – AR and RW had recently visited Bolney Hall to check on its suitability for county events and had been impressed. RW was now exploring the possibility of that location hosting the KD in 2017 in the hope that a more central location would attract more entries.

Action: RW

7.4 Year Book 2016/17

DW reported that he had not thus far received any corrections for publication to clubs. If there were any he should be advised as soon as possible.

8. EBU Matters

8.1 Shareholders' Meeting May 2016 – PB had circulated a report by email. MC Members had no questions on that.

8.2 Standing Committees – Revised Proposals – DW had circulated copies of Jeremy Dhondy's recent letter and attachment. The MC had supported the proposals in 2015 and the proposed changes reflected moves to assuage concerns expressed by other counties. GW reported having a long 'phone conversation with Peter Hasenson of Middlesex who indicated that he and a number of other Middlesex members still had concerns. The MC agreed that it would return to the subject at its September meeting when the residual Middlesex concerns were clearer and we had the EBU responses to them.

Action: DW

8.3 EBU Best Practice for County Associations – DW had circulated copies of this document which was a 'work in progress' emanating from the Counties Working groups. DW had analysed how SCCBA measured up against the guidance and he felt that there were few areas where Sussex was not performing as recommended. One area which arguably was not being addressed was the section on communication with non-affiliated clubs and other local groups which played bridge but the recent enquiry from Rottingdean BC would now establish some action there as well (see also paragraph 9.2 below).

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8.4 EBU Club Liaison Officer – The EBU had appointed a new Club Liaison Officer, Bev Purvis, to take over from Andrew Urbanski. Part of her role was to engage with unaffiliated clubs and counties have been asked to alert her if they are in contact with unaffiliated clubs in their areas. DW said he would advise her regarding the Rottingdean enquiry as soon as their position became clearer.

Action: DW

8.5 Dimmie Fleming Awards – DW advised that following his usual annual trawl amongst clubs he had received no nominations. The MC agreed that Sussex would not nominate anyone in 2016.

9. Membership Secretary's Report

9.1 Membership - HB reported that the county's membership total as of 22 July was 2927, 7 less than at the last meeting.

9.2 Enquiry from Rottingdean BC – A member of Rottingdean BC, a non-affiliated club, had enquired of HB as to whether his club's details could be published in the county year book. He had received a copy as a result of his membership of another, affiliated, club. The MC agreed that this could not be done as it would enable benefits to a club whose members were not contributing via universal membership. However, it was important to encourage such clubs to join the EBU and the Association and DW had already sent the enquirer a copy of the statement of county services to clubs and individual players and the benefits derived from them. In a wider discussion of the non-affiliated clubs and other groups playing bridge in the county, MW commented that a comparison of the list of affiliated clubs before and after the introduction of universal membership might reveal at least some of them to the EBU. DW would reply to the enquirer and Bev Purvis (see paragraph 8.4 above) accordingly.

Action: DW

10. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion but GW invited MC Members to advise him of any ideas they might have for making best use of the space allotted to each county in *English Bridge*.

11. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report

MW advised that Master Points for the Café Bridge event would be awarded at District level. In addition, he requested that any changes planned to be made to the web site during his holiday in September be brought forward to reduce the load on his 'reserve' Webmaster (MP).

12. Conduct Committee Report

DW briefed the MC regarding the possibility of a complaint being necessarily made by the MC against an SCCBA member. A following discussion was informed by advice from the county's pro bono legal adviser (GW). Given the seriousness of the background to the case the MC agreed that it should be referred to the EBU in the first instance. DW would draft an appropriate letter for agreement with GW and the Conduct Committee Chair for onward transmission by email.

Action: DW

13. Education Report

13.1 Bridge in Schools – AR had reported by email that Ian Wright and Stephen Waters had run weekly sessions at Brighton College in the second and third terms and they were very well hosted by one of the staff, Martin Lewis. They had about ten students in all but not all at the same time. Exams etc in the third term meant that attendance was lower than in the second. The intention is now to run sessions next term with students who have already received the course developing their game and running a similar course to this year's for new students joining. They ran sessions at Brighton and Hove High School in the first term but we only had a half hour slot at lunchtime which was not sufficient to make meaningful progress and the sessions were discontinued after Christmas.

13.2 Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp – Preparations for this event, as a replacement for the EBU Loughborough JTI, were proceeding. It would be held at Ardingly College over the period 12-14 August and Surrey and Kent were also actively involved. The detailed timetable is nearly complete and AR is currently in the process of producing example hands for all the topics for all the teachers. The Bridge Camp currently has 20 kids and 10 adults booked. Hopefully, this will increase when the next EBU magazine comes out.

Action: AR

13.3 Vivian Priday Donation – AR had been delighted to receive a very generous donation of £5000 from Vivian Priday for the support of the county's junior bridge activities. A trophy in honour of the late Tony Priday had been purchased and would be awarded to the winners of the flagship duplicate pairs at the Junior Bridge Camp on 13 August, Tony's birthday. A photo and article had been published on the county web site.

14. Charities

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

15. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

DW referred to recent email discussions about engraving responsibilities. The MC agreed that normally winners of events were responsible for engraving and returning trophies before the next year's event. JH should therefore expect invoices (for engraving) from event winners (who could be checked on the web site) or, in extremis, MW as the Trophy Co-ordinator if winners failed to do as required.

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16. Date of Next Meeting

DW indicated that the next meeting would be at 7pm on Friday 16 September 2016 (at Worthing). MW presented his apologies in advance.

Action: DW

17. Any Other Business

DG raised three points:

- Future agendas should include the telephone number of Worthing BC to allow warning of late arrival if needed. The MC agreed.
- Referring to the continuing investigation of Bolney Hall as a future location of county events, he observed that the NYST needed a large amount of catering space and may not be a suitable candidate for locating at BH.
- Referring to recent email exchanges regarding Level 2 events, he observed that the EBU Blue Book contained a useful two page summary of Level 2 and that previous suggestions about offering Directors' advice between rounds were impractical. DW agreed to revise the advice given to Eddie Williams for promulgation to other TDs regarding county Level 2 events.

Action: DW

The meeting closed at 9.07pm