

## 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 22 September 2017 starting at 7 pm

### Present:

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

And other elected members: Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr D Galpin (DG), and Mr M Wright (MWr). Mrs J Armstrong (JA) also attended in support of item 0.

### AGENDA

#### 0. Additional Item

JA rehearsed actions taken since the conviction of a Sussex member for child sex offences. DW had alerted the EBU to the outcome (as previously requested) but had heard nothing by way of follow-up action since. JA had therefore contacted the EBU herself (as an individual EBU member) indicating she had concerns about lessons which needed to be learned from the case. She also heard nothing and 'chased' via a contact with Tim Rees (Chairman of EBU L&E Committee). Most recently she had had a conversation with Gordon Rainsford (EBU General Manager) and had learned that the EBU Board's discussions on the matter had moved to focus on the wider issue of how to enable counties and clubs to deal with this sort of case. The Youth Policy issued in 2015 now needed revision. Further legal advice was being sought and the L&E Committee would be discussing matters further on 11 October. The aim was to revise the model constitutions for counties and clubs to cover the issues arising from this sort of case. MP indicated that he would be at the L&E meeting on 11 October and would report back to the MC. JA provided hard copies of a more detailed report for the information of MC Members.

**Action: MP**

DW thanked JA for her report and she left the meeting.

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr P Bates (PB), Mrs H Beveridge (HB), Mr P Clinch (PC) and Mr M Wotton (MW)

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 28 July 2017

##### 2.1 Accuracy

MC Members were content with the minutes as shown in the final draft.

##### 2.2 Matters Arising

Actions from items 6.1, 6.3, 7.5, 8.2, 16 and 17.1 had been completed. Other actions 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. The latter would be discussed in more detail under item 13.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

JH reported the latest financial balances (to end August) as £16178 (current accounts, including the competitions account) and £23350 (deposit account). The reduction in the current surplus compared with the previous year mainly reflected the higher expenditure to produce and distribute the 2017/18 Year Book. Some work done by volunteers in 2016/17 had had to be outsourced this year. Income from congresses and events was currently running at slightly less than the equivalent figure in 2016 largely because of reduced entries to the Candles and GP Swiss Pairs. Returns from other tournaments showed either break-even or small surpluses. The Midweek Pairs event had been more successful this year reflecting the proactive approach taken by the organiser.

#### 5. Selectors' Report

Following the recent publication of the Metropolitan Cup selections, there was nothing further to report at this stage.

#### 6. Tournament Committee Report

**6.1 County TD list and training** – PC had discussed matters further with Eddie Williams (EW) via a meeting and several email exchanges. PC believed that another TD training day was needed, particularly to review matters after the introduction of the law changes on 1 August 2017 and to bring all TDs up to speed regarding *Bridgemates*. PC also planned to develop a job description for the Chief Tournament Director role for agreement with EW. This JD would include an oversight role in relation to county TDs.

**Action: PC**

**6.2 Metropolitan Cup 2017** – The selections made for the five teams involved (A, BB and CC) had been published to clubs and on the web site.

**6.3 Evolution of competitive offerings to the less experienced** – The TC had discussed this further at its last meeting and DW had followed up with a survey to all clubs asking the following questions:

- Is it important to your club membership that the county offers a full range of competitive opportunities for less experienced players?

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- If it is, please advise as to your club's views on the composition of that "full range", detailing:
  - The type(s) of event thought to be needed
  - The frequency of such events
  - Whether your club would be willing to contribute to the delivery of the range of events required

Only a couple of clubs had replied thus far. DW would report further in due course.

**Action: DW**

**6.4 Rawson Hall, Bolney** – DW had surveyed team captains following the GP Swiss Teams event with questions regarding ease of access, parking, playing environment, refreshments and whether they would be generally in favour of use of Rawson Hall for other county events. All responses had been generally positive with the only concerns related to the absence of adequate refreshments on site. The latter might be resolved at future events through the procurement of sandwiches, etc from, eg Waitrose, and the use of volunteers to serve. The TD (EW) had indicated that he felt that the maximum number of tables within the large room should be 20 and that the small room was unsuitable for bridge. Subject to resolution of these issues, the TC agreed that Rawson Hall was an option for future events, eg the Autumn Congress 2017 and the Kremer Dersch in 2018.

**6.5 Sussex League** – DG reported that after much chasing and cajoling he had secured 43 teams for the 2017/18 season, the same number as in the previous season. MC Members congratulated DG on the success of his efforts. The season was now under way with two matches having been played already.

**6.6 Kremer Dersch – Location for 2018** – Following the comparative success of the first use of Rawson Hall, Bolney, the 2018 KD would be held there as previously agreed.

### 7. Secretary's Report

**7.1 Year Book 2017/18 – Inclusion of Entry Forms** - DW reported that responses to his survey of organisers had been mixed. There was a slight balance in favour of retaining entry forms within the YB. MP observed that in any future discussion of this topic it would be useful to understand the potential saving arising from exclusion of entry forms. AR would advise in due course.

**Action: AR**

**7.2 AGM 2018 – Proposal to amend the constitution** – Following the previous agreement in principle, DW had circulated a draft proposal to amend the constitution. MC Members agreed that this should go forward to the AGM in 2018.

**Action: DW**

### 8. EBU Matters

**8.1 Possible merger of club affiliation fees with UMS fees** – DW reported that no further information had been received from the EBU regarding proposals to move to a UMS charge which also covered club affiliation fees (currently £35 pa). Given the imminence of the EBU AGM it seemed likely that the proposal had been deferred pro tem.

**8.2 Feedback from Law changes from 1 August 2017**– DW asked MC Members whether they had fielded any feedback following the introduction of the law changes on 1 August, particularly regarding the comparable bid. No feedback had been received thus far either from clubs or from county events.

#### 8.3 Junior World Championships 2018 – Support of English Teams

**8.3.1** Following the almost unprecedented success of the English teams at the European Junior Championships, where all four teams had qualified for the World Championships in China in 2018. Ian Payn (EBU Vice Chairman) had enquired of Julian Mitchell (Manager Avenue BC) about ideas for fund raising in support of the English Junior teams. Avenue BC hold an annual event to raise funds for youth bridge and they have agreed to donate half of the proceeds of this year's event (£125) to the support of the English Junior teams at the World Championships.

**8.3.2** DW had alerted all Sussex clubs to the almost unprecedented success of the junior teams which included several Sussex players. Stephen Kennedy and Michael Alishaw had played particularly well at the European Championships and had recently been chosen for the EBU Young Pair of the Year award. West Sussex BC had responded that they were willing to donate £100 to the support fund. DW had indicated his intention to consult the MC over the possibility of a county contribution to the support fund.

**8.3.3** MC Members discussed whether the county should contribute to the support fund particularly given the involvement of several Sussex young players. JH reported that following the issue of DW's email on this subject to clubs, he had fielded a concern passed anonymously to the county independent examiner that were the county to donate to this cause it would be in breach of the objects specified in the constitution. DW made two points in response. First, in the past the MC had on several occasions rounded up the sums generated by the annual charity sims event, thereby establishing the precedent of donating separately to a charitable cause. Second the objects specified in the constitution included:

*To promote and foster the playing of duplicate bridge in Sussex and,*

*To employ the funds of the Association in the best interests of members in furtherance of the objects of the Association, having regard to the fact that the Association is a non-profit making body.*

and DW contended that the first of these must surely include the encouragement of youth bridge. The second must therefore include the support of our best young players where they have the opportunity to represent their country. Given the unprecedented nature of the success achieved this year, it was perhaps unreasonable to expect the EBU to fund all of the support costs of World Championships attendance from basic UMS charge income. MC Members agreed unanimously and endorsed the proposal that the county should donate in support of the junior teams. DW enquired as to the level of donation which MC Members felt was appropriate. DG suggested that this should be to a level which matched the total of donations made by clubs. DW enquired about a

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ceiling and MC Members agreed that there should be a ceiling of £500 which, if reached, would mean a total of at least £1000 donated in support. DW had asked for responses from clubs by the end of October and he would take matters forward with the EBU after that date as appropriate.

**Action: DW**

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

HB had reported by email that the county's membership total as of 22 September 2017 was 2921, 8 more than at the last meeting. HB had yet to receive advice from the EBU regarding the potential impact on counties and clubs from an EU directive on data protection. HB would report further in due course.

**Action: HB**

### **10. Press Secretary's Report**

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

### **11. Webmaster and Master Point Secretary's Report**

MW had reported by email that he had recently completed changes to the web site regarding the county's charitable activities.

### **12. Conduct Committee Report**

DW reported that as a result of conflicts of interest, the CC Chairman and one of its members had stepped aside from action in relation to a complaint recently received. DW proposed the co-option of Joy Mayall to the CC to bring the CC back up to a minimum complement. MC Members agreed. DW also proposed that should investigation of the complaint in question lead to a case to answer, MP should be appointed as Chairman of an independent disciplinary committee. MC Members agreed. MC agreement to additional members of the DC would be sought in due course.

**Action: DW**

### **13. Education Report**

**13.1 Southern Counties Junior Bridge Camp** – A non residential SCJBC had taken place over three days starting on 29 July. 16 youngsters had attended and AR indicated his thanks to Ollie Powell, Gerry Stanford, David Dickson and Colin Smith who had given freely of their time to teach at the event.

**13.2 Bridge in Schools** – AR reported that teaching had recently restarted following the summer break. Substantial additional interest had been fielded at Brighton College and the bridge teachers there (Ian Wright and Stephen Waters) had also agreed to run classes at Syon School, Worthing. Colin Smith had agreed to assist them there and AR had emailed recently a request for further volunteers. PC had responded positively to this.

**13.3 Loughborough JTI** – JA had circulated a detailed report of this event. Once again Sussex had been one of the biggest county contingents.

### **14. Charities**

DW reported that he had trawled clubs for nominations. MW had published a copy of the trawl on the web site. DW would report further in due course.

**Action: DW**

### **15. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report**

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

### **16. Date of Next Meeting**

DW indicated that the next meeting would be at 7pm on Friday 24 November 2017 (at Worthing).

**Action: DW**

### **17. Any Other Business**

**17.1 Number of MC Meetings** – DG noted that in previous years there had been four MC Meetings each year. The procedural change to obtain MC endorsement of the annual accounts had generated the need for an extra meeting in that year but DG wondered whether we could now revert to four meetings a year, in March, May, August and November. MC Members agreed

**Action: DW**

**The meeting closed at 8.27pm**