

## 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 30 November 2018 starting at 11.30am

### Present:

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

And other elected members: Mr P Clinch (PC), Mr D Galpin (DG), Mrs J Mayall (JM), Mr N Watts (NW) and Mr M Wotton (MW).

Mrs A Baxter also attended at the invitation of the Chairman, although was not entitled to vote until completion of agenda item 9.

Mr I Wright (IW) also attended (for agenda item 12.3) at the invitation of the Chairman, although was not entitled to vote.

Mr P Allen (PA) also attended as delegate for Lewes BC.

## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies

Mr P Bates (PB), Mr W Bourne (WB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr R Jameson of Crawley BC (RJ), Mr O Powell (OP), and Mr M Wright (MW).

### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 17 August 2018

#### 2.1 Accuracy

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

#### 2.2 Matters Arising

Action from items 5.2, 6.2, 6.3, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 8.2, 10 and 13 had been completed. Other actions would be picked up under the relevant items below.

*[Hon Sec Note – Agenda item 12.3 (recorded in order below) was taken at this point to allow IW to leave the meeting early for a later appointment.]*

### 3. Chairman's Report

MP rehearsed the urgent need to identify potential candidates for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman roles. The latter had been vacant for over two years now and he was reluctant to continue as Chairman beyond the AGM 2019. MC members were asked to renew their efforts to find suitable nominees. Beyond that MP indicated that he had nothing further to report beyond the various contributions he would make under later items of the agenda.

**Action: All MC Members**

### 4. Treasurer's Report

JH reported the latest financial balances (at 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2018), with total bank balances being £46,166 (31<sup>st</sup> December 2017: £40,315). Surplus on the income and expenditure account was £989, compared to -£817 at this time last year. Overheads (£9,731) were lower than 2017 (£12,038), primarily due to the use of ring-fenced funds (arising from donations) for youth bridge and a £1,000 saving on printing and distribution costs for the Year Book. Receipts from some tournaments were up and some down leading to a similar return to 2017.

### 5. Selectors' Report

**5.1 Tollemache 2018/19** - NW reported that the Sussex team had performed well for much of the qualifying event. In a group of nine they were lying second after 68 of 96 boards and in with a good chance of qualifying for the final (top two from each group qualify). Unfortunately some reverses in the final stages led to a final position of 7<sup>th</sup>. The team's influence on those that qualified did not rest there however as an appeal against a decision in the match against Manchester (who finished 2<sup>nd</sup>) was upheld resulting in them dropping to 3<sup>rd</sup>. Great cheering or gnashing of teeth depending in which camp you resided! On behalf of the players PC commented that NW should be applauded for the time and effort he invested in his role as team captain. The team spirit which he created and sustained was very valuable. MC members endorsed this commendation.

**5.2 Tollemache Seeding – EBU Consultation** - NW reported that selectors and players had been consulted on the proposal to base seeding decisions on NGS rankings and there was an almost unanimous view that the current system based on the results of the previous year should be retained. DW would respond to the EBU consultation accordingly.

**Action: DW**

**5.3 Selectors' Meeting** – NW reported that the Selectors would be meeting next on 7 Dec and minutes would be circulated in due course.

**Action: NW**

### 6. Tournament Committee Report

**6.1 CTD role** – PC had approached Richard Banbury and Paul Gibbons but had yet to receive responses. MC members mentioned Steve Foster as another possibility and PC agreed to pursue that option as well.

**Action: PC**

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**6.2 Metropolitan Cup – Middlesex concerns** – Peter Hasenson had raised concerns about this event and suggested possible changes to its format. In consultation with MP, DW had prepared a draft reply. MC members were content for the proposed response to issue.

**Action: DW**

**6.3 Competition Rules – Arranging Matches** – Following a suggestion by DG, DW had circulated a paper proposing changes related to the responsibility for the costs of 'half-way' venues requested by away team captains. MC members were content to approve these changes.

**Action: DW/PC**

**6.4 Purchase of replacement laptop computer** – PC summarised the difficulties arising from the use of the now ageing county laptop computer and proposed the purchase of a replacement. A budget of up to £500 was sought. MC members approved the proposed purchase.

**Action: PC**

**6.5 PC reported further points of TC interest:**

- **Spring Congress** – Confirmed as a Sat/Sun only event owing to lack of support for Friday sessions, making them uneconomic.
- **Sussex Candles** – Henfield DBS had decided to cease operations on 31 Jan 2019. Arrangements for the NYST were not affected but there was now a question mark over the venue for the Candles. The new village hall at Thakeham, Patcham and Bolney were possible alternatives.
- **Stratification** – Arrangements were being made to introduce stratification to all suitable county events together with prizes for all strata.
- **TD Courses** – Dates for Club TD courses in spring 2019 had been agreed with Eddie Williams. PC would take action regarding the need to strengthen the county TD ranks if possible.
- **Use of Bridgemates** – PC had fielded a concern over the time 'wasted' by players reviewing 'other results'. EBU practice is to display these results as the facility is popular and it can help identify boards which have been mis-scored. PC would respond indicating our intention to continue to follow EBU practice.
- **Hand records** – Requests had been made for records of all boards played to be available after each session at county events. MC members agreed to adopt this practice despite the cost of additional printing required.

**Action: PC**

## 7. Secretary's Report

**7.1 Appointments 2018/19 and Succession Planning** – MP's earlier remarks had updated the MC regarding on-going efforts to identify suitable candidates for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Other appointments were now resolved apart from the TOs for the potentially 'defunct' BB events in Hastings and Bognor.

**7.2 Year book 2018/19 and corrections** – DW had issued a list of corrections to all clubs and JM had followed up regarding 35 'bounces' and a number of changes had been noted and reported to the EBU. This work would continue if possible to clarify the background to all returns. Gerry Stanford (GS), the YB Editor, had suggested that the EBU might be more proactive in noting the evidence of possible changes, eg cessation of playing activity over a long period, and follow up accordingly. AB would discuss this with the EBU in due course.

**Action: AB**

**7.3 Kremer Dersch 2018** – DW reported that this event had attracted 13 teams this year, an increase of three over 2017 and the Avenue team had emerged as winners by a substantial margin. The event had been enjoyed by all present and WB had taken the opportunity to deliver a short presentation regarding the county's youth bridge activity. Subsequently the TC had agreed that Eastbourne BC should be asked to host the 2019 event.

**Action: PC**

**7.4 Year Book Distribution** – JH had made enquiries regarding potential savings from the use of similar plastic envelopes to those used by the EBU for the distribution of the magazine. These enquiries had established that potential savings for an annual exercise would be minimal and that the idea was not therefore worth further pursuit.

**7.5 Eastbourne BC** – DW had circulated (to MC members only) a paper setting out the background to a request from an erstwhile member of Eastbourne BC that that club be disaffiliated from the county association. The paper also recorded the results of DW's research into arrangements for affiliation and disaffiliation. The SCCBA constitution did not provide for disaffiliation and the latter is a sanction available only to the EBU under clause 13 of the EBU Club Terms of Affiliation. The Officers of the EBU Laws and Ethics Committee had reviewed the material supplied in this case and had concluded that no further action is required by either the EBU or the SCCBA. DW's review of the facts of this case had reached a similar conclusion. MC members agreed, believing that for there to be a case for consideration of disaffiliation of a club there would have to be clear evidence that the club had consistently and deliberately broken the EBU's club terms of affiliation with the clear approval of its membership. MC members did not believe that the circumstances of this case were consistent with such a threshold. DW would convey this decision to those concerned.

**Action: DW**

**7.6 Constitution changes** – DW had circulated a draft proposal for approval at the AGM 2019 covering not only the changes necessary to revise the requirements for a quorum at general meetings (approved at the August 2018 meeting) but also those now desirable to clarify arrangements regarding affiliation and disaffiliation which had been noted from the research required for the previous agenda item. MC members were content for this enhanced proposal to go to the AGM 2019.

**Action: DW**

## 8. EBU Matters

**8.1 EBU Awards** – DW reported that AG had attended the EBU AGM earlier that week to receive her Dimmie Fleming award. DW invited MC members to record their congratulations. MC members concurred by acclamation.

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**8.2 EBU membership Campaign** – The EBU had undertaken a pilot exercise in conjunction with the Yorkshire county association to develop a package of templates, advice and support which might be used in partnership with those clubs which wished to invest the resources necessary to pursue a significant increase in their membership. This was now being implemented in a number of areas. SCCBA's initiatives on the youth bridge strategy and the Minibridge in Schools project were proceeding in parallel with the EBU initiative. PB had attended a pre-AGM meeting with the EBU and other counties to discuss this and other issues which might be taken forward by a counties working group covering London and the Home Counties. DW had advised the EBU that Sussex did not have the additional resources to engage with their initiative at this stage although we would continue to be interested to learn of other membership project successes. MC members concurred.

**8.3 EBU AGM** – PB had circulated an initial report summarising the key points arising. Another appointment had forced him to leave the meeting early but he would provide a further report by reference to the draft minutes as soon as possible.

**Action: PB**

**8.4 EBU Consultation on proposed Bye Law changes re refusal of membership** – The Officers had discussed this recently and had identified a number of concerns. DW had conveyed these to the EBU and responses were awaited from the EBU Board. Whilst MC members agreed in principle with the creation of this provision, they agreed that the Officers' concerns (about the implications for club membership) should be addressed beforehand. DW would report back as soon as possible.

**Action: DW**

### 9. Membership Secretary's Report

**9.1 Membership** – JM reported that the county's membership total as of 30 November 2018 was 2835, an encouraging 49 more than at the last meeting and 66 more than six months ago.

**9.2 GDPR 2018 – Contract with Bridgewebs?** – DW had circulated a paper reviewing the background to the potential need for a data controller/data processor contract between SCCBA and Bridgewebs. MC members noted the balance of arguments involved and delegated responsibility for reaching a consensus to DW, MW and AB.

**Action: DW/MW/AB**

**9.3 New Membership Secretary** – DW had circulated a paper reporting the resignation of the Conduct Committee Chairman, Jill Armstrong. Dave and Jill were moving north early in 2019 to be closer to family. MC members asked DW to convey their thanks and appreciation for all they had done for Sussex bridge over many years. JM had volunteered to take on the CC Chair and AB was willing to become the new membership secretary. MC members indicated their approval of all of the resultant changes.

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

MW reported that:

- There was now a new, separate, web page for the Lord Newton Link project and in due course this would contain full details of those who had participated, the distances walked and the total sums raised. The latter would be split between the Alzheimer's Society and Sussex youth bridge. DW reported that he had written to Richard Newton and Andy Ryder conveying hearty thanks to all involved on behalf of the MC. The total benefit to Sussex youth bridge was expected to be around £4,300.
- Richard Fedrick had indicated his intention to retire from his role as regular communicator of news about Sussex players' results in National competitions. Efforts to find a replacement continued. [*Post meeting note – PC has kindly volunteered to continue this information service.*]

### 11. Conduct Committee Report

There was nothing to report from the SCCBA CC on this occasion but DW reported that he had received notification of the suspension of the EBU membership of Mr Leiv Bornecrantz. This would be published in the EBU magazine in due course. MC members believed this news should be drawn to the attention of all Sussex clubs. DW agreed to email accordingly.

**Action: DW**

### 12. Education Report

**12.1 Youth bridge – long term strategy** - DW had circulated a paper summarising the approach and roles proposed. The latter were:

- DW would retain the administrative aspects dealing with general enquiries and liaising with the other bodies/organisations involved. He would also act as overall co-ordinator of our activities, ensuring effective communications between the parties involved and with the MC.
- WB would retain responsibility for our annual junior bridge camp and lead our input to the on-going discussions with Kent and Surrey regarding the regional programme of youth bridge events which we hope will help establish the critical mass of young players we seek.
- IW would continue to lead the Minibridge in primary schools project with a view to communicating and embedding the understanding of the educational benefits of bridge and thereby the establishment over time of 'full' bridge clubs in schools in partnership with local EBU affiliated clubs.
- OP would act as adviser to those occupying the other roles ensuring the young players' perspectives are fully reflected in our plans at all stages. Where possible, he would also act as a 'champion' of our activities at the events concerned.

MC members indicated their contentment with all of the paper's proposals. Regular reports would be provided and financial approvals sought as appropriate.

**Action: DW/WB/IW/OP**

**12.2 South East Counties Junior Bridge Camp 2019** – WB had circulated a detailed business case for the proposed JBC 2019 and sought MC approval for the outline plans, the support required and the financial cover needed. The latter was on the same basis as 2018. The venue had been changed to the Bowles Leisure Centre to take account of the mild criticisms about accommodation and

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security registered by some parents at the 2018 event. MC members indicated their contentment with all aspects of the plans proposed and their approval of the financial commitment involved.

**Action: WB**

**12.3 Minibridge in Primary Schools** – Ian Wright (IW) had circulated a paper reporting progress with this project. Training days had taken place in October and November at Worthing and Eastbourne and 52 attendees had been equipped with the knowledge and skills that would enable them to for two or three man teams each to work with a local primary school. Meaningful contacts had been established with 13 schools and one (Storrington) was already planning teaching sessions next term. IW was hopeful that these contacts might be 'converted' into working partnerships with around 8 schools. DBS checks were in train and EBED was closely involved. Further reports would be provided at future meetings.

**Action: IW**

**12.4 Use of Social Media** – DW had circulated a position report. As yet it was unclear as to whether proposals for the use of social media in support of youth bridge activities would be submitted. Dedicated web pages were being introduced and discussions regarding the potential added value of social media were continuing. MC members were invited to note this report and that further approval(s) would be sought as necessary in relation to the expenditure implications of the future use of social media.

### 13. Charities

DW reported that he had received only one nomination to benefit in 2019 – the Sussex Community Day Centre based in a church hall in Wivelsfield Green. The SCDC is a small, low income, charity which meets once a week to provide services to disabled adults. In past years there have been sufficient nominees to allow the selection of two charities to benefit from the proceeds of the county charity sims event. On this occasion, with only one nomination, DW proposed that the SCDC should be the single beneficiary. MC members agreed. DW would advise those concerned and JH would make payment in due course.

**Action: DW/JH**

### 14. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

**14.1 Storage Space** - MWr had reported (by email) that the need for new storage space had now been resolved.

**14.2 Ladies Pairs Trophy** – JM reported the need for a new base and sleeve for this trophy. MC members approved the £80 budget needed for this change. The most recent winners of the event did not wish to have custody of the trophy during their year of 'reign' and JH would discuss with MWr where best to store a trophy with an insurance value of over £3,000.

**Action: JH/ MWr**

### 15. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Worthing Bridge Club, commencing at 10.30 am

### 16. Any Other Business

**16.1 EBU UMS charge** – JM alerted MC members to the increase in the UMS charge rate from 38p to 39p from 1 April 2019 recently approved at the EBU AGM. DW observed that careful stewardship by successive treasurers had allowed the county rate to be held at 7p for many years.

**16.2 Timing of MC meetings** - DG sought confirmation that MC meeting start times would revert to 10.30am at the next meeting. DW confirmed this.

**16.3 Draw for Championship Teams Plate** – DG sought MC member participation and supervision of the draw for this event. MC members drew numbered playing cards to 'pair' the eight teams involved and observed DG's announcement of the ties produced. DG would publish details in due course.

**16.4 Gladys Hakki Trophy** – In response to a question from MW, DW confirmed that the invitation for nominations for the GH award would be issued shortly.

**Action: DW**

**16.5 Year Book 2019/20** – DW reported that the request for information for the YB 2019/20 would be issuing to clubs shortly.

**Action: DW**

**The meeting closed at 13.25pm**