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# SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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**A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA took place at Worthing Bridge Club, 12 Byron Road, Worthing BN11 3HN on Friday 6 May 2016 starting at 7 pm**

### **Present:**

Mr A Ryder (AR)	Chairman
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 H Beveridge (HB), Mrs A Galpin (AG), Mr D Galpin (DG) and Mr M Wright (MWr).

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr M Pool and Mr M Wotton.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

##### **2.1 Accuracy**

MC Members were content with the minutes as drafted.

##### **2.2 Matters Arising**

Actions from items 4.4, 4.6, 5, 6.4, 7.4, 7.6, 7.7, 13.4, 15.2, 15.3 and 16 had been completed. Other actions from items 6.2, 6.6, 7.1, 7.5, 7.8, 9.2, 12, 13.2, 13.3, 13.5 and 17.1 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** On behalf of JH, who had only just been elected at the preceding EGM, DG reported the latest financial balances as £11051.34 (current account) as at 6 May and £2138.50 (competitions account) and £23233.29 (deposit account) both as at the end of April.

**4.2** The Spring Congress had generated a small surplus of £186, primarily because of reduced venue costs. The Inter Club Teams of Eight had also shown a small surplus (of £182) and this would be used to fund the county's entry to the Garden Cities event.

**4.3** The handover from DG to JH was nearly complete and the change of Treasurer Signatory (at Barclays) would come into force later that day.

**4.4** RW asked whether deposits to the county's account could be made by more than one individual. DG advised that his practice had been that only one person (the Treasurer) held the paying-in book in order to remove the possibility for error and confusion.

**4.5** DG reported that there had been an email discussion amongst the Officers regarding the charges to apply to equipment hired to an outside organisation. A representative from Horsham BC had enquired as part of preparations for an important anniversary in 2017. The club planned a 25 table session run by Andrew Robson and wished to borrow tables, cloths, bridgemates, laptop and printer from the county. After an extensive discussion about the value of the equipment involved and the risks to that equipment associated with its loan elsewhere, MC Members agreed:

- A hire charge of £100
- A delivery/collection charge also of £100
- Both subject to an indemnity from Horsham BC regarding any damage to or loss of the equipment during the loan period, which was expected to be no more than 24 hours.

**4.6** DW referred to an enquiry made by MWr some months ago regarding the interest rate paid on the county's deposit account. DG confirmed that this was currently 0.5% but this should be seen in the context of the free banking enjoyed by the county. JH agreed to monitor the situation in the coming months and he would report back if an opportunity for a higher interest rate emerged.

#### **5. Selectors' Report**

There was nothing to report under this item. For the MC's information, AR advised that he had been given indication that the Metropolitan Cup (organised by Surrey for the first time in 2015) would not take place in 2016

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as Surrey no longer had the resources to act as organiser. AR enquired whether Sussex should step in. DW reported that there had been little enthusiasm for the organiser role in Sussex prior to its transfer to Surrey and he doubted that that situation had changed in only twelve months. The MC agreed to be alert to any views to the contrary but would not otherwise intervene at this stage. PB would enquire of the Surrey shareholders at the upcoming EBU meeting and report back.

**Action: PB**

## 6. Tournament Committee Report

**6.1 Café Bridge** – RW reported that preparations were proceeding 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.

**Action: RW**

**6.2 Competition Rules 2016/17** – The anticipated EBU 'Protocols for League competitions' had not yet appeared. DW would consult DG and the TC when they arrived.

**Action: DW**

**6.3 Organiser Guidelines** – RW was unsure whether the revised guidelines had been issued to all organisers. DW passed a further paper copy to assist the check.

**Action: RW**

**6.4 Sussex/Surrey Co-operation** – RW reported that there was now mutual publishing of events on web sites and in calendars. Surrey was also closely involved in the planning of the Southern Counties JTI (see item 13 below).

## 7. Secretary's Report

**7.1 Mike Webber** – DW reported the sad news of the passing in April of Mike Webber, Gladys Hakki winner in 2013. DW had attended the funeral to represent the Association and had passed on the MC's condolences to Bobby, Mike's widow.

**7.2 AGM/EGM – Timing of future AGMs** – Following the abortion of the AGM this year, DW asked whether future AGMs should be timed to take place during the break between sessions at the Spring Congress. The 'captive audience' might ensure that a quorum is reached in future. MC Members had mixed views on the pros and cons of such a change and DW agreed to email club contacts and organiser Eddie Williams for a wider perspective. He would report back in due course.

**Action: DW**

**7.3 Appointments 2016/17** – DW had circulated the current draft of the appointments list for the coming year. There was one 'TBA' (for the Welcome Pairs). AR said that as he was now the organiser of the Autumn Congress (which was intended to incorporate the Welcome Pairs) he was happy to be the organiser for the WP. DW agreed to make the necessary change to the list. MC Members agreed the revised list and DW would arrange for its publication.

**Action: DW**

**7.4 Location of Kremer Dersch** – This event had been held at Eastbourne BC in 2015 and normally would have alternated to the home of the Old Barn BC in 2016. AR noted that Eastbourne's Year Book return had indicated a willingness also to hold the event in 2016, now on 9 October. AR and RW had recently visited Bolney Hall to check on its suitability for county events and had been impressed. RW would explore the possibility of that location hosting the KD in 2017 in the hope that a more central location would attract more entries.

**Action: RW**

### 7.5 Year Book 2016/17

AR confirmed that the YB was almost ready to go to publication. Members should receive their copies by the end of May as planned.

**Action: AR**

## 8. EBU Matters

PB referred to the EBU AGM agenda item concerning proposals to dispense with Standing Committees, elected at each AGM, and to replace them with Board appointed sub-committees. The MC had discussed this proposal at its May 2015 meeting and agreed to support it. Subsequently the EBU Shareholders' Meeting had also endorsed the proposal. Whilst the proposed change had been passed at the EBU AGM, the majority achieved had been insufficient to implement the change. The EBU Board was now considering how to proceed and further proposals had been expected to be brought forward to the next Chairmen's and Shareholders' meetings. It was now known that EBU Chairman Jeremy Dhondy would be making a statement on progress at the Shareholders' meeting later this month but revised proposals would not be presented until the AGM2016.

## 9. Membership Secretary's Report

HB reported that the county's membership total as of 25 April was 2934, 8 more than at the last meeting. The total at 31 March had been 2926, still below the level (3000) required to justify a fourth shareholder.

## 10. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

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

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

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## 12. Conduct Committee Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

## 13. Education Report

**13.1 Sussex Junior Bridge Festivals** – Following the success of the first festival in August 2015, another event had been held in February 2016. It took place at the Avenue BC and 25 youngsters had attended. AR believed that this was a good way of attracting youngsters to the game and a youth section of 14 members, drawn from nine or ten different schools, was now active at the Avenue BC. AR was keen to hold further festivals, probably in 2017, using other clubs as hosts to try to establish more youth sections across the county.

**13.2 Southern Counties JTI** – Preparations for this event, as a replacement for the Loughborough event previously organised by the EBU, were proceeding. It would be held at Ardingly College over the period 12-14 August and Surrey and Kent were also actively involved. The Youth Bridge fund was also expected to benefit shortly through a very generous donation by Vivian Priday in memory of her husband, Tony.

**Action: AR**

**13.3 Joint Initiative with Sussex Junior Chess(SJC)** – The concentration of effort towards the Southern Counties JTI had precluded further initiatives here for the time being.

## 14. Charities

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

## 15. Equipment Co-ordinator's Report

There was nothing to report on this occasion.

## 16. Dates of Next Meetings

DW indicated that the next meeting would be at 7pm on Friday 22 July 2016 (at Worthing).

**Action: DW**

## 17. Any Other Business

**17.1 Resources to ensure accurate scoring and correct use of bridgemates at county events** – Following a detailed discussion of the difficulties encountered at the Mixed and Sussex Pairs Finals, the MC reached these conclusions:

- Specific bridgemate training must be mandated for all county TDs. Worthing BC were organising a course, run by an EBU director, and JH would advise RW as to whether places for county TDs could be allocated. In addition, plans should be drawn up for another course to give county TDs a choice of dates and the training should be offered to non-county TDs and others who might wish to act as county scorers.
- The county's premier events must be run by a county TD and an experienced scorer with the former taking charge of events in the room and the latter ensuring the use of the correct movement and the consistency of the bridgemate/laptop set-up.
- The correct movements for all play all events should be laminated and made available to all county TDs and scorers to assist the correct selection of movements on laptops.

**Action: RW**

**17.2 SCCBA policy on use of bridgemates in county events** – The MC confirmed that it wished bridgemates to be used for county events wherever possible, particularly pairs events. The action flowing from item 17.1 (TD training) should ensure consistent implementation of this policy.

**17.3 Restarting Sussex/Surrey annual matches** – Martin Pool had fielded an enquiry about this. Previously teams of eight matches had been held with hosting alternating between the two counties. The teams were drawn from committee members. Surrey had withdrawn from this annual event but this enquiry suggested that new management might now take a different view. Further enquiries would be made by PB (in the margins of the EBU Shareholders meeting) and RW through her contacts.

**Action: PB/RW**

**17.4 County TD List** – The MC reviewed the current list (last reviewed in 2013) and confirmed it was content to retain the nine directors listed as published on the county web site.

**The meeting closed at 8.44pm**