
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA, held at the Henfield Hall at 1030 hrs on Sunday 2nd January 2005.

Present:

Mr M Pool	Chairman
Mr E Williams	Vice-Chairman
Mr P Kent	Hon. Secretary
Mr D Galpin	Hon. Treasurer
Mr D Clifton	Hon. Membership Secretary

Mr T Bradley (President), Mr P Bates, Mrs S Bugden, Mr B Gould, Mrs M Langmaid, Mr B Loasby, Mrs J Newton, Mr D Newton and Mrs C Watson.

Delegates: Mrs D Strauss representing Worthing Bridge Club.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Mrs K Batting, Mr R Buddery, Mrs V Chandler, Mrs J Clinton, and Mr A Southwell

2. Minutes of the meeting of 3rd October 2004.

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were approved and were signed as being a true record of the meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 We are still awaiting a decision from SCCBA's insurers with regard to the injury complaint [2.2.2].

2.2.2 Baker Tilley have agreed to sponsor our playing cards and have given us a cheque. Yves Lebrech will come up with a design to encompass our own and Baker Tilley's logo [2.2.5].

2.2.3 The Chairman and Secretary inspected the tables donated by the EBU and found that fifty were in good condition and 28 were in need of refurbishment. It was agreed nem.con that we should employ someone to refurbish the damaged tables. The agreement between the SCCBA and the Avenue Bridge Club is still to be finalised by Andrew Southwell [3.4].

2.2.4 Pat Kent agreed to contact the schools in Sussex to update those having an interest in bridge [4.3.4].

2.2.5 The Treasurer reported that he was still having difficulty apportioning credits, despite raising this at the last meeting and again requested that everyone banking on behalf of the SCCBA e-mail him the details [5.3].

2.2.6 The Treasurer wrote back to the person complaining about our high club affiliation fees along the lines agreed at the last meeting [5.4].

2.2.7 The Webmaster has made entry forms available on the website [7.1.3].

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 The Chairman said that he had two sad reports to make, the death of Renee Crouch, wife of our Vice-President and more recently, Harold Birch, member of the Worthing Bridge Club. They will be sadly missed and the Secretary agreed to write to Margaret Birch and send some flowers.

3.2 Dave Armstrong has agreed to teach four young players free of charge and the Avenue Bridge club will provide the room. It was agreed nem.con that the SCCBA will provide equipment and subscriptions to the EBU/County. It was also agreed nem.con that the SCCBA offer would be extended to other young people who wished to learn to play bridge.

4. Secretary's Report

4.1 The Secretary handed out Nomination forms for those members of the Management Committee who wished to seek re-election.

4.2 The Secretary said that he had received details of the National Newcomers Pairs 2005 from the EBU and as for last year it is a one-day event, which will be scored across the field by internet using the Ecats system. The Avenue Bridge Club will be holding the event on the 20th March 2005 (not 28th as published in the County Calendar).

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer said that it was too early to give the year-end figures, but expected the surplus to be lower than the preceding two years. There is £21,000 in the high interest account and £11,000 in the current account. It is expected that £4,000 will be spent on playing cards this year.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

6.1 The EBU introduced a new computer system for handling membership lists in September 2004. It is still having teething troubles, but is expected to be functioning correctly shortly.

6.2 The following membership figures were reported:

Type of member	No. of members end August 2004	No. of members end November 2004
Full	1,191	1,297
Under seventeen years	2	2
Dual	18	26
Bridge-for-all	78	78
Total	1289	1,403

6.3 The Membership Secretary said that overall, we have been losing 100 members per year.

7. Tournament Committee Report

The Tournament Committee report had been distributed to the members of the Management Committee before the meeting.

7.1 As far as the tournaments were concerned, the surpluses were similar to the previous year.

7.2 The Newsletter Editor agreed to write an article for the next issue on the theme “Use it or lose it,” to encourage more members to participate in congresses and competitions.

8. Selectors Report

David Galpin reported that the Tollemache team came equal 2nd in their group of 9. Leicestershire won the group, and Sussex and London tied for 2nd place. The match between Sussex and London was drawn 10-10 in VPs. However when the imps were taken into consideration, London were 2 imps to the good. The tie was thus split in favour of London. It was agreed that the team played very well and should be congratulated on so nearly making the finals.

9. Conduct Committee’s Report

No meetings have been held in 2004.

10. Awards

10.1 Charities Val Chandler had provided a discussion paper to the Management Committee with suggestions for the year 2006. It was decided to carry this forward to the next Management Committee meeting.

10.2 Dimmie Fleming No nominations were made.

10.3 Gladys Hakki One nomination had been received and it was agreed nem.con. that the nominee was a worthy candidate.

11. Marketing Research

Non and ex-members of the EBU had completed 77 questionnaires and Sally Bugden gave a summary of her analysis of the returns. She drew the conclusion that the core purpose of the research has resulted in a negative approach response to a reduced fee gathered by the clubs. She made the following recommendations:

- Other policies need to be formulated to make the organisation more accessible and welcoming to new players;
- A special task force be set up to discuss the various issues that the research has highlighted and to develop a positive action plan to counteract the negative image of tournament bridge.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the West Sussex Bridge Club on 24th April 2005, starting at 10-30 am.

13. Any Other Business

There was no “Other Business.”