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# SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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A meeting of the Management Committee of the SCCBA was held at The West  
Sussex Bridge Club on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008 starting at 1030

**Present:**

Mrs J Clinton	Chairman
Mr E Williams	Vice Chairman
Miss J Simpson	Hon Secretary
Mr D Galpin	Hon Treasurer
Mr N Hardy	Tournament Manager
Mr J Williams	Membership Secretary

Mrs M Langmaid, Mr P Bates, Mrs V Chandler, Mrs A Galpin, Mrs T Hennings, Mrs H Kent, Mr A Southwell, Mrs D Strauss, Mrs C Watson, Mr M Wotton.

## 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr M Pool, Mr R Buddery, Mr D Armstrong, Mrs S Bugden, Mrs N Gillespie and Mr P Pennant.

## 2. Minutes of the meeting of 27 April 2008

**2.1 Accuracy.** Para 3.3. Delete Mr D Galpin.

Para 5 line 2. Delete £3228 and insert £2328

The minutes were then agreed nem con and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

### 2.2 Matters Arising

#### 2.2.1 County Appointments

See Chairman's report below.

## 3. Chairman's Report

**3.1 County Appointments.** The Chairman welcomed Mr J Williams to the committee as Membership Secretary.

**3.2 EGM Ardingly 10 May 2008.** The minutes of the EGM (see enclosure) were circulated to the committee. The Hon Sec proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by the Tournament Manager. This was agreed. Sussex shareholders had voted for the EBU proposals at the EBU EGM in June.

**3.3 Charity Donations.** Donations to Knowles Tooth and the Sussex Air Ambulance had been made and grateful thanks received from both.

**3.4 Calendar 2008/09.** The Chairman apologised to all for the number of errors that had been printed in this year's calendar. A list of amendments has been drawn up and will be sent to every member.

**Action: JS/EW**

Changes to the production of the calendar are being introduced in 2009. EW agreed to make up a word comment for MW to help transfer information onto the website.

**Action: EW**

**3.5 Postage overcharges.** The recent circulation of the newsletter, calendar and entry forms has incurred a surcharge of £1.15 in some areas despite the mailing having been checked three times before posting. A complaint has been sent to Customer Services at the Post office and reply is awaited. It was agreed that members should be

advised that where applicable details could be sent to the Hon Treasurer to apply for a refund.

**3.6 Education Trust Grant.** The Chairman had written to Sandra Landy thanking her for the grant and informing her of its use.

**3.7 Steyning Congress Autumn 2008.** The Chairman had received some queries concerning the omission of the Ladies Pairs event at Steyning this year. There will be no Friday afternoon events at the Autumn Congress this year. The Ladies Pairs event has been moved to the Spring Congress at Uckfield.

**3.8 Proposed SCCBA Storage at West Sussex.** The Chairman had just received a letter from West Sussex Bridge Club advising that proposals for new build project at Warden Park School were moving forward faster than anticipated and an agreement had now been reached between West Sussex Bridge Club, WSCC and Cuckfield Dramatic Society on a 99 year License to occupy a new building at the school. The Chairman of West Sussex Bridge Club has now asked for SCCBA's requirement for storage to be stated so that the design can include a bigger room for WSBC which would incorporate the SCCBA storage area. The approximate cost of providing a room of 12sq m are £15K and commitment to this spend was sought from the SCCBA.

The committee agreed that the current situation for SCCBA storage at the Avenue Bridge Club was not good with the equipment being upstairs, limited space in the room for duplicating and difficulty in parking. A purpose built room at WSBC would provide long term storage on the ground floor, and be more accessible and secure. The Hon Treasurer stated that the proposals would use approximately 50% of SCCBA assets.

The terms of the proposed license were noted and there appeared to be some clarification needed on the following points:

- Are WSBC allowed to sub let to the SCCBA?
- What is the provision of maintenance?
- Were WSCC to move/close the school and terminate the license is there any compensation available to SCCBA?
- Would SCCBA be a licensee under the agreement?

AS agreed to examine the terms of the agreement and make a report back to the Chairman.

**Action: AS**

Subject to a satisfactory response to the questions raised it was proposed by PB, seconded by VC that SCCBA should commit to the provision of this storage space. This was agreed unanimously by the committee and the Chairman would write to WSBC accordingly.

**Action: JC**

It was however agreed that as a courtesy, before any commitment was made the Chairman should speak to Richard Newton, the owner of the Avenue Bridge Club.

**Action: JC**

The Chairman further pointed out that the project had been mentioned to members at the last AGM and she was committed to keeping them informed on any progress. It was agreed that the Hon Sec, subject to a satisfactory response, to the questions raised should add this to the mailing with the calendar amendments going to all members.

**Action: JS**

#### **4. Secretary's Report**

**4.1 Communication with clubs.** The previous list of club ambassadors has been reviewed with a view to them visiting clubs in particular to seek to encourage clubs to highlight members who might be interested in playing in the county basic bridge events. It was felt however that in view of the proposed introduction of P2P there was a need to consider a different approach to clubs. Options will be considered for discussion at next meeting. In the meantime club secretaries will be asked to forward

names of teachers to the Hon Sec so that basic bridge entry forms can be sent directly to them and a request will be placed on the website. **Action: JS/MW**

*(post meeting note: Following a post meeting discussion between the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Hon Sec it is proposed to set up a meeting early in the New Year for all club officials to consider the way forward to deal with the introduction of the proposed P2P.)*

**4.2 Calendar/Newsletter distribution.** See item 3.4 and 3.5 above. She reported that the entry forms for the Championship Teams and League which had been omitted from the recent distribution to members had been sent to Club Secretaries.

**4.3 The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2007.** The EBU are providing free new law books to all those clubs who have paid their affiliation fees. The Hon Sec has contacted all clubs and has distributed copies to those who had paid by 1 July 08. Of the 7 clubs who had not paid 6 now have and copies for them are being ordered with those for county directors. **Action EW/JS**

**4.4 Ferring Bridge Club,** The EBU have received affiliation fees from Ferring Bridge Club. This club is currently not listed in the SCCBA calendar. It was agreed that contact should be made with them to establish the status of the club.

**Action: JC/TH**

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The bank balances stood at £7397 in the current account and £25505 in the High Interest account, marginally higher than in April. The Green Point events at Ardingly had shown profits of £1500 (pairs) and £1850 (teams).

Directors' fees and mileage allowance have been reviewed (last done 3 years ago) and the Hon Treasurer proposed the following increases with effect from 1 Aug 08:

Chief Director £45 per session (was £40)

Director £40 per session (was £35)

Caddies £50 per day and to include taking down.

Mileage 25ppm (was 20ppm)

A session is 24/27 boards and a full congress of 49 boards is 2¼ sessions.

The increases were agreed unanimously and the Hon Treasurer will contact all Directors and event organisers. **Action: DG**

It was noted that these increases would have an effect on the costs of county events and the committee tasked the Tournament Committee to review these. **Action: NH**

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

The Membership Secretary reported that the EBU list of Sussex members showed that there were 340 unpaid members which was £1700 owed to the county. The EBU send reminders to these in August and following that he will produce a list of non payers for committee to follow up appropriately. He had also reviewed the list of members and found that only 62 were under the age of 50!

He pointed out that no record was held of the primary club of allegiance on the EBU records which could be helpful. He also felt that there was a need to address the requirement for records with the introduction of P2P and requested that the committee consider these and make proposals to him. **Action: All**

The number of dual members was approximately 25 and to keep the list up to date he requested that event organisers be asked to send details to him as they play. **Action: NH**

## **7. Tournament Committee Report**

**7.1 Basic Bridge rules.** A definitive list of conventions to be used at Basic Bridge events is being drawn up and will be available by 1 August 2008. This will be sent to the organisers of all the events. **Action: NH**

**7.2 Devonshire Cup Competition.** As a result of the falling numbers over the last few years this year the Devonshire Cup will be awarded to the winners of the Pivot teams event at the Autumn Congress. The future of this competition will be reviewed at the next Tournament Committee meeting. **Action: NH**

## **8. Selectors' Report**

The Chairman of the Selectors' Committee reported on the mixed achievements in the Metropolitan Cup. He was writing to ascertain availability for the Tollemarche Cup and the team will be picked at the next selectors' meeting and it was planned to have a seminar with Sandra Landy for the team.

One team had taken up the SCCBA subsidy of the entry fee at the Spring Fours and this team had done well finishing 7<sup>th</sup> despite only being seeded 32<sup>nd</sup>. DG proposed that this arrangement be continued for 3 years. This was unanimously agreed.

## **9. Conduct Committee's Report**

The Hon Sec reported that Joy Mayall had been confirmed as Chairman of the Conduct Committee. There was nothing further to report.

## **10. Master Point Secretary's Report**

**10.1 Novice Swiss Teams.** No points had been awarded for winning matches in the Novice Swiss Teams because an insufficient number of boards had been played as a result of a delayed start and subsequent lack of time. The committee felt that in view of the novice players in this event a special case to award these points should be made. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with NG and NH and report back to MW for further action. **Action: JC**

**10.2 Use of Scorebridge.** A number of competitions were not using ScoreBridge. This is the preferred method for uploading results to the website. The President had offered to train people on the use of ScoreBridge and Bridgemates but to date this had not been taken up. It was agreed that recommendations for scoring methods in the county and training in their use should be made by the Tournament Committee. **Action: NH**

**10.3 Master Point Scales.** He had circulated a review of the master point scales and in the absence of any comments proposed to send this to organisers, scorers and directors. This was agreed. **Action: MW**

## **11. Communication Coordinator's Report**

The webmaster was thanked for putting the photos of winners of county events onto the website. Articles on events continue to be sent to county newspapers but were not being printed. PB suggested the use of the WS version of the County Times as they had reported the Venture Pairs.

## **12. Education Report**

In the absence of the Education Coordinator there was nothing to report. The Chairman requested that a report on the proposals for Loughborough this year be made and hoped that the support of SCCBA would be acknowledged. **Action: DA**

### **13 Dimmie Fleming Award**

There were no recommendations from SCCBA for this year,

### **14. Charities**

The presentation of cheques to the selected charities this year had been successful and popular. VC raised some concern over the income available for donation in view of the decline in participation in the David Boston Bowl. The Hon Treasurer reported, however, that there had been an increase in donations at county events this year and these had been distributed to the two charities selected. Members were asked to consider and propose a possible small local charity to support next year – one with a specified small project that could be supported would be preferred.

**Action: All**

### **15. EBU Matters**

**15.1 P2P Proposals.** See item 3.2 above. The final decision of the EBU EGM to go ahead with the proposals was noted.

**15.2 Mr Bridge Article by Sandra Landy.** The recent letter in Mr Bridge written by Sandra Landy and the reply to it by Mr Stocken (which had been circulated to shareholders) were discussed. In view of Sandra Landy's close connection with Sussex a possible response to her was considered. However it was emphatically agreed Mr Stocken's reply had been robust and that no further comment from the county would be appropriate.

**15.3 Letter from West Sussex BC.** The Hon Sec read out a letter, dated 20 June 2008, received from The Secretary, West Sussex Bridge Club requesting that their concerns

*regarding the EBU Strategy proposals and their opinion that the county EGM held in May had been a pointless exercise as the SCCBA management Committee had already agreed to agree to the universal affiliation to the proposals. Further their committee were unhappy about the proposed extra work which those changes would burden the officers, and that they do not wish to undertake such extra work*

be placed on record. The letter was noted by the committee. It was hoped that over time the extra work would be reduced with the wider and better use of technology. An acknowledgement of the letter had been sent.

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

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 2 November at West Sussex Bridge Club commencing at 1030

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

**17.1 Hills Trophy.** TH confirmed that the Hills Trophy is a Worthing Bridge Club event and not a county event.

**Enclosure**

**EGM Record of meeting**



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# SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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An Extraordinary General Meeting of the SCCBA was held at Ardingly on Saturday  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2008 starting at 1215.

Present:

Mrs J Clinton	Chairman
Miss J B Simpson	Hon Secretary
and 38 members.	

The Chairman opened the meeting and stated that it had been called to help the county decide on its response to the EBU's proposals for universal membership via Pay to Play (P2P) as outlined in the paper distributed to all affiliated clubs in April 2008.

She explained the need to keep a viable governing body for the game and outlined the proposals to achieve this through universal membership and the Pay to Play Scheme.

There followed a period of discussion concerning the likelihood of the level of charge being increased. It was explained that following the EGM a formal agreement would be set up and clubs would be asked to sign a contract. This was expected to include the level of charges to be made.

A vote was then taken on the SCCBA Management Committee's proposal

*that Sussex should vote to accept universal membership via P2P as outlined in the paper distributed to clubs in April 2008.*

The proposal was adopted with votes 36 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

It was however agreed that should the P2P fee be significantly increased as the result of a greater number of clubs than anticipated deciding not to affiliate then there should be a reassessment of the agreement

The meeting was closed at 1245.