
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Committee of the SCCBA was held at the West Sussex Bridge Club on
Saturday 15 January 2011 starting at 1300

Present:

Mr M Pool	President (in the chair)
Miss J Simpson	Hon Secretary
Mr N Hardy	Tournament Manager
Mr J Williams	Membership Secretary

Mr D Armstrong, Mr P Bates, Mrs V Chandler, Mr R Lowe, Mr P Pennant, Mr G Stanford,
Mrs C Watson, Mr M Wotton, Mr D Ellis and Mr R Wheeler.

The President opened the meeting and informed the committee that due to the ill health of Jackie Clinton he was acting a Chairman. The committee asked that their very best wishes for a speedy recovery be passed to Jackie.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs M Langmaid, Mrs J Clinton, Mr E Williams, Mr D Galpin, Mrs A Galpin, Mrs T Hennings, Mr A Southwell and Mr R Whiting.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 31 July 2010

2.1. Accuracy

The minutes were agreed nem con and duly signed as a true record.

2.2. Matters Arising

2.2.1 Registration and Voting (item 7.2)

The Hon Sec reported that the EBU paper on Registration and Voting, election of shareholders and the role of the regional committees had been sent to clubs (26 May 2010) requesting their views. Barbara Herold from East Sussex BC has indicated that she is willing to be nominated to stand as Sussex representative on the Regional committee. The committee thanked her for her support and asked the Hon Sec to seek nomination through her club. It was noted from the EBU proposed TOR for the regional committee that counties should pay expenses on the day of the meeting. The MC agreed that these should be paid for this year only and the matter should then be reviewed again. Replies had been received from only 3 clubs on the subject of Shareholders – all of whom said they wished to leave the current system for shareholders unchanged. This is also the view of the MC and the Hon Sec was asked to reply to the EBU accordingly. Further the MC considered that the County Representative on the Regional Committee should be invited to attend management committee as a non-voting member.

Action: JS

2.2.2 Bridge mates purchase (item 3.1)

The Bridgemates and 3 servers were in the process of being returned and upgraded to Bridgemate 2 following a renegotiation of the price. MP offered to help anyone wishing to know how to use the Bridgemates.

2.2.3 Surrey/Sussex Match (item 2.2.3)

No reply had been received to email sent many weeks ago. The Committee asked NH to seek contact with the Surrey rep by telephone.

Action: NH

2.2.4 Security of Duplicated Boards (item 3.3)

A label system to seal duplicated boards for events has now been introduced by PL.

2.2.5 County Directors (item 3.5)

Katie Kennedy has successfully completed the county directors' course and hopefully will be working with EW at the Spring Congress. CW informed the committee of her recent difficulty in finding a county director for the New Year Swiss Team event following the sickness of DG and that the calendar list should be updated. The committee agreed that the Chief Tournament Director (EW) be asked to review and update the list in the county calendar.

Action: EW

The Hon Sec informed the committee that EW is arranging a course to update county directors to take place on the Friday afternoon at the Spring Congress. The committee felt that it would be helpful for a list of skills needed to be provided and tasked the TC to provide this.

Action: NH

2.2.6 Newsletter Distribution (item 11)

The Chairman (JC) had expressed a special wish that GS and his wife and TH be thanked for their very hard work in getting the last newsletter distributed. The committee also wish their thanks to be recorded. The future distribution of newsletters and calendar to members was discussed under item 3 below.

2.2.7 Metropolitan Cup (item 16)

NH reported that he had booked Ardingly for 2011 for the Metropolitan Cup but it was felt that after 10 plus years organising this event another county should be asked to run it. The committee asked that this matter be raised at the next meeting.

Action: JS/NH

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 Newsletter editorship

On behalf of the Chairman the Hon Sec reported that the Newsletter editor Bryan Stephens had resigned following the receipt of a number of unpleasant emails concerning recent newsletters. The Chairman had reluctantly accepted the resignation. The Committee expressed their deep regret at what had happened and joined the Chairman in thanking Bryan for his hard work and enthusiasm in producing the Newsletter for the past 3 years.

Action: JS

Considerable discussion took place on the future production need, and content of a newsletter for members. The committee felt that it was important to give some hard copy to members and to contact them at least once a year.

The content of any newsletter needed some further consideration although it was generally felt that a newsheet style with information on county matters and some basic bridge should be aimed for. The meeting took cognisance of the WSBC newsletter as the meeting was taking place there and CW suggested that the editor Yves Lebec be approached to

consider taking over the vacant SCCBA Newsletter editorship. The committee agreed; should he agree then the Officers would invite him to discuss the way ahead. DW offered his assistance too from his experience in producing the Worthing newsletter.

Action: CW/JS

It was felt that the distribution via clubs had produced some odd anomalies and NH proposed that members should be contacted personally once a year. This was seconded by DA and unanimously agreed. The timing of this annual distribution should be linked to the production of the calendar. To reduce postage costs it was recommended that the calendar be reformatted to A5 size. Further it was agreed that the distribution of entry forms through the year and AGM announcements would be made via clubs.

Action: EW/JS

4. Treasurer's Report

The President reported on behalf of the Hon Treasurer.

"The balances at the year end stand at

Current Account £2720

Deposit Account £22177

Total £24897

For the first time during my period as Treasurer, I have had to withdraw funds from the Deposit Account, £2500 in November for general expenses and £3500 in December to cover the purchase of the new BridgeMates. Since the year end I have issued further cheques totalling £1020, mainly in connection with the New Year Swiss Teams, further reducing the current account to £1700. I have yet to bank any income re the NYST (current entry 36 teams, = just over £3000).

The year end figure compares with a total of £32586 between the 2 accounts at the start of 2010 and would appear to indicate that we will be showing a loss of between £7/8000 for 2010. The reasons for this loss are mainly:-

P2P - we have had a total so far from the EBU of £3569, covering 7 months i.e. an average of just over £500 per month. We are, of course, 5 months, or around £2500, short for the full year and the final P2P total should come out very close to the subscription income we have lost.

The purchase of the new BridgeMates at £3517. This had to go into the 2010 accounts; otherwise we would have to have paid a higher figure following the recent VAT rate rise. The purchase was agreed with a round robin of emails between all the Officers but needs to be ratified by the full Committee at this meeting.

There were 2 more events held in 2010 for which the SCCBA pay (one more Kremer Dersch and the Chairman's Cup). Perhaps in future these events could be held on alternate years one a year.

I am confident that, with no major capital expenditure foreseen and with a full year's P2P income, 2011 will be a much better year for us but I feel we will have to increase our P2P figure. We are committed to 5p for 2011/12 but I feel for 2012/13 we must increase this to 6p and there is probably a case for 7p. On current figures, every 1p benefits us by around £1200. I will propose to April's AGM the figure you agree at this Committee meeting."

After discussion on the Hon Treasurer's points and future expenditure the committee felt that there was a need for a strategic review of expenditure and income to justify any increase in P2P figures. It was agreed that the Hon Treasurer be asked to do a review, then make recommendations to the Officers for them to authorise the recommendations for P2P, and this was not to exceed an extra 2p, to be made at the AGM.

Action: DG

5. Secretary's Report

5.1. Gladys Hakki Nominations

One nomination had been received - Roger Poulter who has supported the SCCBA MC over 30 years, run county competitions and continues to run the Championship Teams and Plate, teaches, and is currently Chairman Eastbourne BC. The Committee unanimously agreed that the Gladys Hakki award be made to him this year.

5.2. Committee Nominations

The Hon Sec reminded the committee that nominations for committee members must be received 7 days prior to the AGM. NH informed the committee that he wished to stand down as Tournament Manager and that GS has agreed to be nominated in his place. PP also gave notice that he was standing down from the committee but he volunteered to continue to run the Teams of 8 event and National Pairs if required. The President thanked both NH and PP for all their hard work.

5.3. AGM Arrangements

The Hon Sec outlined the arrangements for the AGM and the draft agenda (attached). The President agreed to stand by to act as Chairman should Jackie Clinton be unable to attend.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

There are currently approximately 3000 members including the Bridge for all membership. JW advised that members should go to the EBU website and the members' area to check and correct, if necessary, their home club.

7. EBU Matters

PB made a report on the Shareholders AGM (attached) and further advised the committee that following a review the Shareholders had agreed that the license fee for 1day GP events will be fixed and reduced to £6.80 with effect from 1 April 2011.

8. Tournament Committee Report

8.1 Competition laws – participation in heats

It has been reported several times to the tournament committee that a number of events are poorly supported at the heat stage and RW has asked for this to be an item on the next TC meeting agenda. PP endorsed this and proposed that heats could be held as club events with only those wishing to play in the county event paying the additional fee. The existing SCCBA Rules of Competition Annex B currently state "one pair (one individual for individual event) *may* play with no standing". PP asked that his proposal be put to the next TC meeting for their consideration and to bring their recommendation to MC. This was agreed.

Action: NH

It was further considered that the SCCBA Rules of Competition Annex C needed to be reviewed and the committee asked the TC to do this.

Action: NH

8.2 League div 1/2 promotion/relegation

A request to change the promotion/relegation between Division 1 and Division 2 in the Sussex League from 1up/1down to 2up/2down was made by PP. JW pointed out that some discussion with DG was already underway. The committee decided that this matter should be referred to the TC for their recommendation to the MC.

Action: NH

8.3 EBU Licensed events

The number of EBU licensed events needs to be addressed in the light of the current EBU regulations. The TC was asked to undertake this.

Action: NH

The President expressed the committee's thanks to NH for his work as Tournament Manager over the past 5 years.

9. Selectors' Report

The Selectors' Report, previously circulated, was noted and the committee considered and agreed that the costs of sponsorship for our county teams proposed by DG must be reviewed as part of the strategic review to be undertaken by the Hon Treasurer and recommendations made to the Officers.

Action: DG

10. Conduct Committee's Report

One complaint had been received regarding a player's behaviour; following a letter from the Chairman of the Conduct Committee to the offender a profuse apology was offered to and accepted by the complainant. No further action.

11. Master Point Secretary's Report

11.1 Response to P2P Masterpoint and licensing Review

A response was sent to the EBU and a reply is awaited.

11.2 P2P Uploads

MW reported that standard uploads were operating smoothly but he was having an erratic and slow response to non-standard and at present he had no means of checking their correctness. He would report on this again.

12. Communication Coordinator's Report

There had been some improvement in the press reports of bridge but CW requested that organisers be again asked to take cameras to events so that good pictures were available.

13. Education Report

DA reported that

- last year had been disappointing as Varndean had made it difficult to function, however Blatchington was on again and Mini Bridge was being held at West Hoathly and Warninglid schools.
- It was difficult for the children to play in the Venture Pairs as the convention card used was different to the EBU simple systems. He requested that he be

asked to the TC to discuss this. NH stated that this item is already under discussion and on the next agenda of the TC.

The Hon Sec on behalf of the Chairman asked if DA would consider running a mini bridge event in Sussex for children. DA agreed to investigate this.

Action: DA

DA requested support from the SCCBA for this year's Loughborough event for juniors as arrangements needed to be put in place before the next meeting. The committee agreed that notwithstanding the upcoming strategic review and previous expenditure at this event, up to £1200 would be made available for 2011. Further sponsorship would be dependent on the outcome of the strategic review and would need to be requested. DA thanked the committee for their willingness to support this year.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The Hon Sec was asked to investigate if the next meeting could be held at Worthing BC on Sunday 15 May at 1045.

15. Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business.

Attachments

- 1. AGM 2011 Agenda**
- 2. Draft Minutes AGM 2010**
- 3. EBU Shareholders Report (Peter Bates)**