
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

**A meeting of the Committee of the SCCBA was held at West Sussex Bridge Club
on Sunday 16 May 2010 starting at 10-30 am**

Present:

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

Mr P Bates, Mrs V Chandler, Mrs A Galpin, Mrs T Hennings, Mr P Pennant, Mr G Stanford, Mrs C Watson, Mr M Wotton and Mrs D Strauss.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Gerry Stanford to the committee.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr M Pool, Mr E Williams, Mr D Armstrong, Mrs H Kent, Mr R Lowe and Mr R Whiting.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 17th January 2010

2.1 Accuracy

DG informed the committee that the interest assessment he had given at the last meeting had not been realised and was in fact £300. The minutes were agreed nem con and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Trophies List.

All trophies and cups had now been repaired and were held by the Chairman. A full audit and archiving of past trophy awards by HK and EW was outstanding.

Action: HK/EW

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 Chairmen's Meeting at EBU Feb 2010.

The Chairman had attended a lively meeting of County Chairmen about the introduction of P2P and at which a number of ongoing consultations to be had with counties were outlined. (See agenda item 8). A teaching programme designed for clubs has been produced and a copy of the development guide had been given to her. The management committee welcomed this initiative and asked that clubs be advised of this. JC/JS will confirm first with EBU if clubs have already been sent a copy.

Action: JC/JS

3.2 Bertha Kremer-Dersch.

Thank you letters had been received from Bertha Kremer Dersch's niece both for the flowers sent on Bertha's 100th birthday and for the joy they had brought her in the last month of her life.

3.3 Uckfield Congress – Complaints.

A letter had been received following the Uckfield Spring Congress complaining about the behaviour at table of opposition pairs and about eating at the table through matches. The matter had been dealt with by the chairman; however the committee felt that there was a need to advise newcomers of their right to call the director at the time, and asked that the EBU ruling on eating food at the table be checked by JS.

Action: JS

3.4 Scoring at Finals.

There had been some problems using the club computer at Worthing to score county finals. Organisers were asked to take a county laptop to finals for scoring. JW reminded all that there was a need to back up information held on computers.

3.5 SCCBA Web Site.

The Chairman pointed out that the list of bridge clubs on the web site still includes those who did not affiliate to EBU following P2P. Following discussion it was agreed that in order to continue to promote the playing of bridge in the county these clubs should remain on the list for this year but be annotated "non-affiliated/no master points awarded"

Action: MW

3.6 Welcome to New Members.

A welcome to new members following the introduction of P2P has been put on the front page of the website.

3.7 Lady Milne Trophy.

Congratulations were due to Muriel Bailey and Valerie Benson who had played in the trials and had come 11 out of 20.

3.8 Bridgemates.

There were 12 Bridgemates missing and one server – JC will follow up with EW on his return in June. Further it was noted with some regret that again the Bridgemates had failed at a big event – at Ardingly. A vote of thanks was given to Neil and Winnie Morley for the support that they had put in to the event to score and keep it running. JC was asked to write and CW will send flowers to thank them for their hard work.

Action: JC/CW

The ongoing difficulties with Bridgemates had been discussed by NH at length with Neil Morley and it was opined that the problem may lie in the firmware and that the server and the Bridgemates may be at different issues. NH will be following this up as soon as possible with the suppliers.

Action: NH

4. County Appointments

The county appointments for 2010-11 were approved and the list is attached to these minutes.

5. Competition Organisers

The competition organisers for 2010-11 were approved and the list is attached to these minutes. The Chairman thanked ML for all her hard work over many years in running the Mixed Pairs.

6. Secretary's Report

6.1 AGM actions.

In a response to a request was made at the AGM for a regular shareholders report to be made in the SCCBA newsletter the chairman has appointed PB to act as the Shareholder correspondent. The first article will appear in the June newsletter.

Action: PB

6.2 SCCBA Calendar.

Details of all affiliated clubs have now been received. Landsdowne is not listed as affiliated on the EBU web site. JS will seek confirmation of this from Jill Armstrong. Only affiliated clubs details will be published in the calendar.

Action: JS

6.3 Dates of SCCBA heats.

To ease the difficulty of fitting all the semi finals and finals into the SCCBA calendar it is proposed from next year to ask clubs to complete heats by 31 Dec annually. The committee agreed.

7. Treasurer's Report

The bank balances stand at £4491 in the Current Account and £27820 in the Deposit Account. There were outstanding expenses to be paid of approx £1200 for the Ardingly JV event and donations to be paid from the charity events. These totalled £776 this year, possibly less due to the bad weather at the time of the events. It was agreed that £400 be sent to each charity.

The Hon Treasurer informed the committee that the three recent main events (NY Swiss Teams, Spring Congress and Ardingly) had all shown a significant drop in income.

8. EBU Matters.

The Hon Sec gave a feedback from the last Shareholders meeting and distributed to committee members a letter from the EBU Board outlined consultations with members and clubs that are taking place this year.

8.1 Constitution of the Board and Standing Committees.

The EBU is an increasingly complex business involving projects of significant financial impact and the Board has concluded that it must, in future, have a full complement of skills. This could best be achieved by allowing the Board to co-opt/appoint a number of Directors to fill any skill gaps. Further the current procedure of electing Board members for a one year term was no longer considered optimum. After much discussion at the last Shareholders meeting it was agreed that the preferences of Shareholders should be considered and responses sought by end of May covering

- Composition of the Board – introducing a mix of elected and co-opted Directors with the 3 officers to be elected.
- Chairmen of the three Standing Committees - to be appointed from the 11 Board members
- Composition of Standing Committees - introducing a mix of elected and co-opted members
- Tenure - all *elected* Board & Standing Committee members to serve for 3 years

The Management Committee agreed the following response – ***The Sussex shareholders consider that there should be more elected than co-opted Directors with no more than 3 co-opted at any one time and that a rolling 3 year programme of elections should be established where one third of the members are elected each year.***

Action: JS

8.2 Registration and Voting.

Investigations into the best form of representation for members have been carried out by the EBU and these were discussed at both the Shareholders meeting and at the County Chairmen's meeting. The Board has decided that this issue would best be handled by a consultation through counties to clubs. The paper that had been given to Shareholders at the last meeting is attached to these minutes. This contains three options for consideration and consultation on representation and voting within the county. Counties have been requested to stimulate debate with clubs and members on this and make a single response by mid December 2010.

The Management Committee consider that the interests of the county are best served by shareholders who have wide knowledge of and involvement with the county organisation and events, and are themselves members of clubs. The committee feels that the current system in Sussex whereby shareholders are appointed from within the Management Committee, who are themselves proposed and voted to the committee by members annually at the AGM, and then approved at the AGM best serves the county. It was agreed that this opinion should be put to clubs in the consultation process.

The Management Committee was unclear about the role of the Regional Committees and their relationship to counties and sought some clarification on how the EBU saw this and their relationship with Regional Committees. The Chairman and Hon Sec will seek further information on this and the committee agreed this matter should be discussed again at the next meeting.

Action: JC/JS

To undertake the consultation process it was agreed that Club Chairmen (copy to Club Secretaries) should be sent the EBU paper and the Hon Sec will advise clubs that the county is seeking more information on the Regional Committees. Responses from Chairman will be requested by end of September 2010. The county response would then be determined at the meeting on 31 Oct 10.

Action: JS

8.3 MasterPoint and Licensing Feedback

A review of these regulations will be undertaken by 1 April 2011 to take account of experience from Universal membership. Counties have been requested for their opinions by end of September 2010 on

- Allowing Counties to make their events open to any EBU member if they so wish
- Whether competitors playing in County competitions should be subject to a P2P charge and if so, to what extent
- Further tightening up the regulations and conditions applying to non-EBU members entering County and Club events
- Whether County K/O events should be subject to a P2P fee and how much that fee should be.

The Committee referred this matter to the Tournament Committee and the County Officers for approval.

Action: NH/JC

9. Education Report

The Chairman reported on behalf of DA that unfortunately the bridge club at Blatchington Mills School has closed as Mike Davies was unwell and had left the school. DA was in negotiation to reopen the club and also with Varndean College. The Chairman will be seeking information from DA about attendance of juniors at Loughborough this year.

Action: JC/DA

10. Charities

VC had received two suggestions for charities (both of which have local groups) to be supported next year -

- Crossroads which provides carers to carers

- Children's Liver Disease Foundation

She proposed that these be supported by SCCBA for next year; this was seconded by JS and agreed unanimously. AG suggested that clubs not running a heat during the event be invited to make a donation. NH agreed to include this in the letter which is sent to clubs before the event.

Action: NH

11. Membership Secretary's Report

JW reported that since 1 Apr the EBU has recorded 2600 members in Sussex.

12. Distribution of Newsletter

Notwithstanding the cost it was agreed to welcome and include all members in the next distribution and that the next newsletter, calendar and relevant entry forms should be sent to each Sussex member individually by EW and to Sussex dual members by JS. A full set of members' labels will be requested from the EBU and sent to EW

Action: JS

13. Communication Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Conduct Committee Report

The Chairman informed the committee that Joy Mayall had been reappointed as the Chairman of the Conduct Committee.

15. Master Point Secretary's Report

With events scheduled for 10-11 consecutive weekends plus 2 Simultaneous Pairs, January to March was, as usual, a busy time for MW but there were no significant new problems.

MW has encountered various problems with P2P-related processes. Since the EBU did not initially include county support in the new P2P upload process, MW encountered several frustrating delays and problems before finally managing to get it to work recently. He has also had problems in finding a method for uploading results to the EBU where he only needs to get Master Points issued, e.g. the League. Also, after finally discovering how the EBU's Check Points On-line facility will work in future, he thinks it's a backward step and will confuse users. He has also had problems with the EBU Number Look-up utility, the ScoreBridge 'P2P exempt' flag and, for his club, getting results containing anonymous members accepted. Two weeks ago, MW sent JC and MP a summary of the communication problems he's had with the EBU but only MP received it. On this and other occasions, MP provided much-appreciated assistance in getting the EBU to address outstanding problems. MW will send his summary of EBU communication problems to JC (again), JS and PB.

Action: MW

When the EBU drafted P2P-related changes to the Master Point Handbook (MPH) early this year, they also included some 'tidying-up' in the sections which govern what events counties may hold without requiring a licence. These changes would have meant that approximately two-thirds of Sussex events would require licences. After consultations with counties, many of whom, including Sussex, seem not to have been obeying the old MPH anyway, the EBU has eased various restrictions. The only limits in the latest MPH which Sussex exceed are that we have one too many Minor Championships and one too many No Fear events. But Sussex also does not obey (and has not done for a long time) the unchanged one which says that Minor Championships should be substantially different in entry or format, i.e. Sussex has 3 identical Swiss Teams and 2 identical Swiss Pairs events. The EBU says that counties may continue with existing irregularities in 2010/2011 but may not introduce new ones. EBU will review all regulations at the end of the year and counties will be expected to be fully compliant in 2011/2012. MW said that one of the proposals being considered by the EBU, i.e. allowing counties to make events 'open' if they wished, could be used to remove all Sussex's irregularities by making both congresses 'open'. Counties are requested to supply feedback by the end of September (see item 8.3).

16. Tournament Committee Report

As a result of a lack of interest in the Devonshire Cup event (only 2 teams entered last year and only one club had scheduled a heat for this year) it has been decided not to run the event this year.

18. Selectors' Report

DG reported on a meeting held last week at which preliminary pairs for the Metropolitan Cup and Tollemache Cup were selected and are being contacted.

19. Annual selection of dates (in advance) of Management Committee Meetings

The dates of the Management Committee meetings for the next year were agreed as

Sat 31 Jul 2010 at 1300 at West Sussex BC

Sun 31 Oct 2010 at 1030 at West Sussex

Fri 7 Jan 2011 at 1030 at Worthing BC

20. Any Other Business

20.1 Surrey/Sussex Match.

NH will contact Surrey to check on arrangements for the next match.

Action: NH

Enclosed

1. County Appointment and Tournament Organisers 2010-2011
2. The EBU, representation and voting